

NORTH MISSION NEWS

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Editor-in-Chief
Victor Miller

FEBRUARY 1989



Photo by Jim Binder

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY FROM THE JWEINAT FAMILY

THE 3 1/2 UNSOLVABLE PROBLEMS OF ART AGNOS

- by Victor Miller

At his January press conference with the editors and publishers of the 11 member San Francisco Neighborhood Newspaper Association, Mayor Art Agnos said that, while reducing a estimated \$72 million budget deficit was his highest priority, the city's "three and a half unsolvable problems" are 1) AIDS, 2) Homelessness, 3) Crack cocaine and 3 1/2) Graffiti.

During the 1 1/2 hour session, the Mayor addressed these issues and gave a preview of the direction his administration will take.

Agnos predicted the budget deficit of \$72 million could rise to as much as \$92 million if a continued drought reduced city revenues from the sale of hydro-electric power and water from the Hetch-Hetchy reservoir. The Mayor said he was unaware of a cent-a-gallon gasoline tax which State Senator Quentin Kopp claims was already passed by the Board of Supervisors in 1980 but never enforced. Kopp claims this tax would yield revenues of \$3 million a year. Without going into detail about the new City budget, the Mayor did outline an ambitious public works plan for spending the \$21 million surplus in the Port Authority budget. This would include creation of a fishing center at Pier 45, a Scandinavian Center at one of the piers and a \$200 million multi-year renovation of the Embarcadero roadway from Fisherman's Wharf to China Basin.

Agnos expressed disappointment with the public's "how-can-we-stop-it" attitude towards proposals for a downtown

stadium/arena. He felt that an arena/stadium complex located near Moscone Convention Center would not only make that facility competitive with convention centers in other cities, but would provide an important source of funding for social programs

AIDS

The Mayor painted a bleak picture of the impact of AIDS on the City. Although he said recent studies show a decline or leveling off of the number of AIDS cases, but these already infected are "entering the heavy care mode of the disease" and therefore placing an increased burden on both public and private health care resources. Agnos said there will be "5 AIDS deaths per day in San Francisco by 1992."

HOMELESSNESS

Agnos took pride in some of the steps his administration has taken and plans to take in reforming the City's homeless program. He condemned the "insanity of one night stands in residential hotels" and now allows stays of 3-7 days in these hotels. "What has been wrong is seeing homelessness as a temporary problem," the Mayor said. In the coming year the City will explore several options for providing permanent housing for the homeless. One plan calls for the City to negotiate an annual lease for one or more hotels; this would reduce the per-unit cost of providing shelter which currently costs the City \$7 million per year.

A second, similar approach would in-

see page 2



THE MARIA ALICIA APARTMENTS Photo by Jim Binder

MARIA ALICIA APARTMENTS SET TO OPEN JULY 4th

Thirteen and a half years after an act of arson destroyed the Gartland Apartments killing 25 people, the struggle to put affordable housing at 16th and Valencia, the site of the tragedy, will be brought to a successful conclusion when the Maria Alicia apartments open on July 4th, 1989.

The \$3.7 million cost of the four-story building was deferred, in part, by a federal construction loan through the now depleted HODAG program to the projects developer and owner, the Mission Housing Development Corporation (MHDC). In addition to this, a variety of city funds and a loan from Wells Fargo Bank were necessary to keep rents for 16 of the 20 units at approximately 60% of the current

market rate. MHDC hopes to find individuals currently receiving Section 8 rent subsidies to occupy the four market rate units, thereby making Maria Alicia Apts. 100% affordable.

The building will have 1 one-bedroom unit, 2 two-bedroom units, 11 three-bedroom units and 6 four-bedroom units. As of February 1989, no leases for the two ground floor commercial spaces have been signed.

Nonetheless, as with most projects funded during the Reagan years, there are strings to the funds. In this case, minimum income restrictions will make the poorest

see page 2

CRIME: THE MISSION FIGHTS BACK

see page 6

AGNOS

continued from page 1

volve the use of funds from recently passed State bonds to underwrite the cost of purchasing privately owned hotels. Agnos tied the success of these proposals to providing appropriate social services to the residents of these facilities, tailored to the particular situation . . . i.e. unemployment, mental health problems, drug addiction . . . that resulted in an individual becoming homeless. The Mayor also indicated a preference for increasing the role of non-profit housing corporations in the management of homeless hotels and shelters.

The Mayor hopes to unveil his master plan for dealing with the homeless problem sometime in February and promised it would be "a first class example of everything I'm trying to do in government."

CRACK

The Mayor was not as optimistic about the City's efforts to stop the epidemic rise in the use of crack cocaine. He took exception to the view that the crack problem is one that can be solved simply by the use of more police. He cited a pilot program at Oceanview playground where off-duty police participate in youth activities, thus discouraging drug sales at that location, as one thing the City is trying.

The Mayor did not say if or how this program could be expanded, nor did he indicate that his administration would unveil a comprehensive program for dealing with the crack epidemic in the immediate future.

GRAFFITI

The Mayor said that the graffiti problem, when compared to crack, AIDS and homelessness, was "an insignificant problem" and therefore listed it as problem 3 1/2 instead of problem 4 on his list of unsolvables.

Reports in the Chronicle and Examiner that the Japanese based Mitsubishi Corporation would pay the City \$12 million for graffiti removal in exchange for video advertising at MUNI subway stations were called "bullshit" by the Mayor. Agnos explained "Mitsubishi itself never made the offer, it was just an ad agency testing the waters for itself." However, the City purchasing department is investigating a similar concept, according to the Mayor.

OTHER ISSUES

Parking and Traffic: A City task force currently working to combine pieces of 13 separate City agencies into a centralized Parking and Traffic Authority will, according to Agnos, "create the biggest change in City government in 20 years."

Domestic Partner Benefits: Agnos called for "a modernization of the city's family policies" and said that granting spousal benefits to the domestic partners was not a gay or straight issue but a "workers' benefits issue". Legislation regarding domestic partners will probably be before the Board of Supervisors in the next few months.

The Presidio: The Mayor noted that the economic advantages of closing the Presidio were questionable in terms of reducing Federal budget deficits. He pointed out that "it is the only base closure that is being transferred from one Federal department to another."

The next S.F. Neighborhood Newspaper Association meeting with the Mayor will take place in time for the April issue.

MARIA ALICIA

continued from page 1

segment of the Mission community ineligible. The funding guidelines set are designed to make the housing available only to those making at least 50% of the median income for San Francisco. Since there are some very rich people living in this City, this means a single individual must have an income of \$16,700, two people renting together must have a combined income of \$19,100, three people a combined income of \$21,450 and four people a combined income of \$23,850.

Under the system, 16 units will be available to those earning 50-60% of the median income for San Francisco with the resulting rents of \$427/mo. for a one bedroom apartment, \$479 for a two bedroom apartment, \$565 for a three bedroom apartment and \$685/mo. for a four bedroom apartment.

Those interested in getting an apartment at the Mari Alicia should pick up an application form at the office of Caritas Management Corporation, 2111 Mission Street, Suite 301, beginning February 6th, between 2 PM and 5 PM Monday through Friday.

It should also be noted that, in spite of the income restrictions on the Maria Alicia Apartments, the completion of this build-

ing as affordable housing will have some very positive impacts on the surrounding area. During the long period the site was a vacant pit, community groups were concerned that the site would be developed either for high income housing, boutique commercial use and/or office development. In any of these high-rent cases, the inevitable "ripple effect" of an increase in surrounding commercial and residential rents would have displaced many local businesses and residents.

The Maria Alicia Building is the third corner of 16th and Valencia to be purchased by a local non-profit development company and assures the stabilization of one of the most crucial intersections in the development process of the Mission District. (The northwest corner, which contains Casa Lucas Grocery, is now owned by the Mission Language and Vocational School and the southwest corner, Casa Valencia, is owned by the Housing Development and Neighborhood Preservation Corporation.)

Seen in this light, the Maria Alicia Apartments represent a significant benefit not only to those who will actually live there, but to the community as a whole.

Victor Miller

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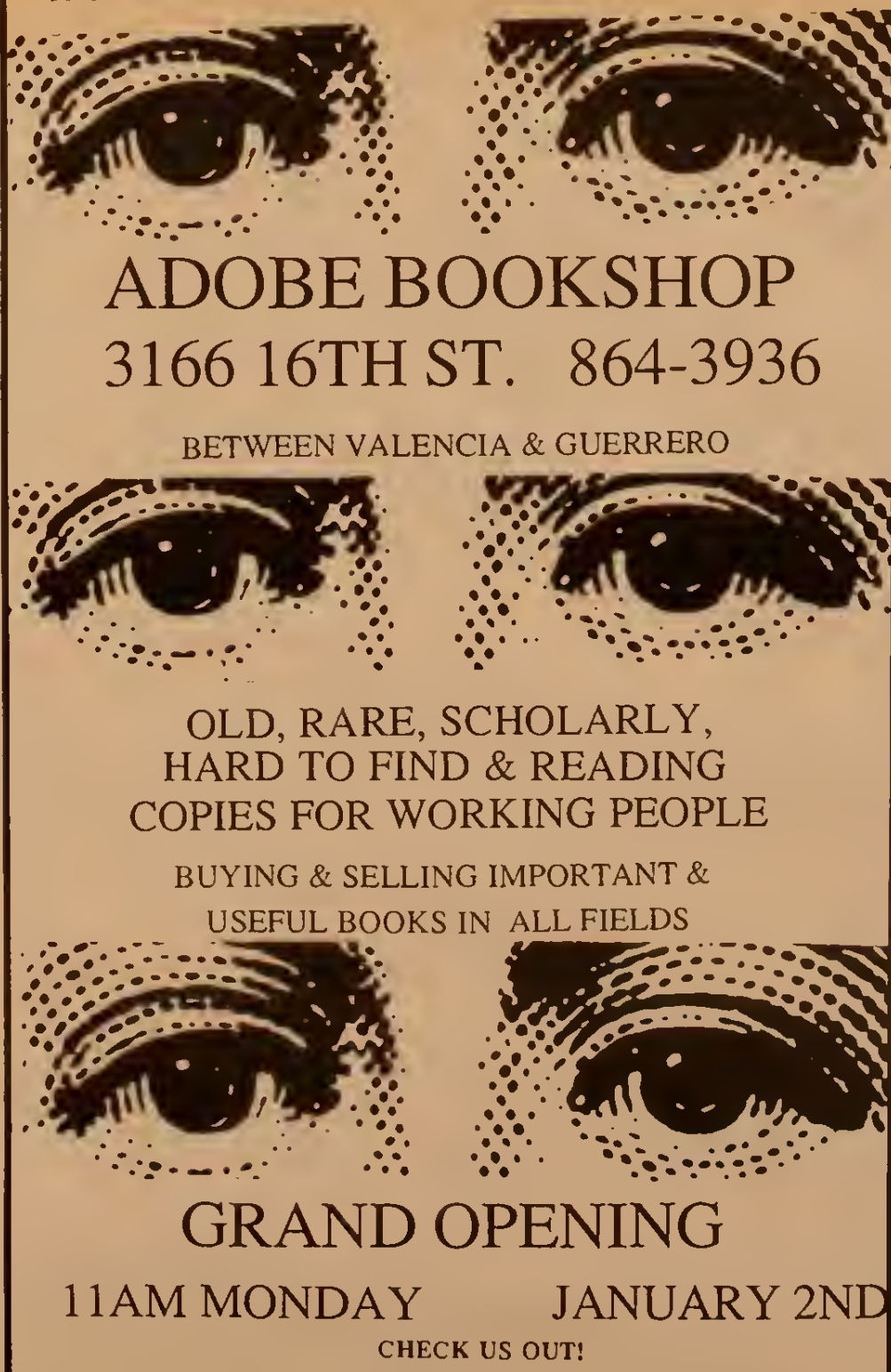
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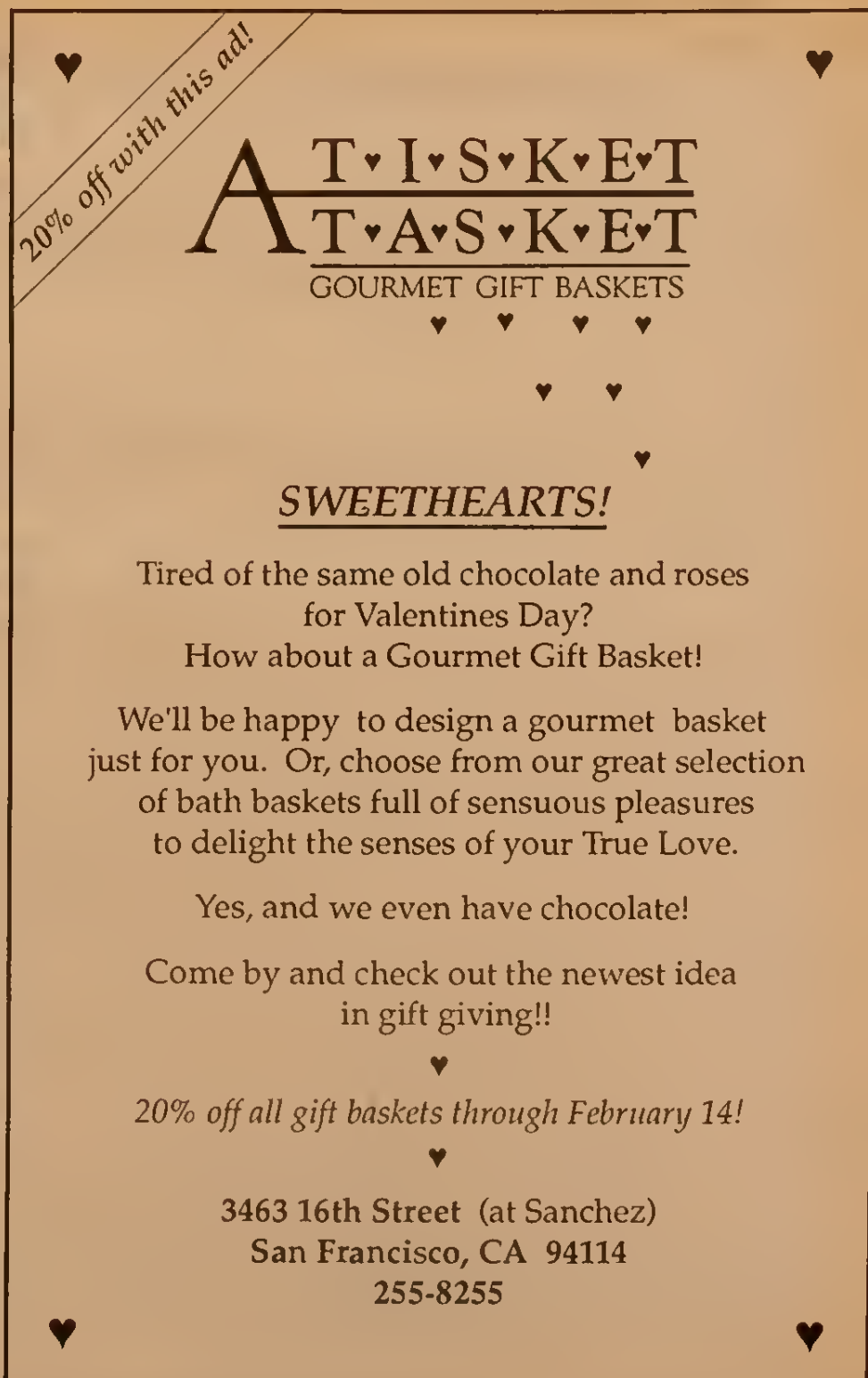


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LEÓN MEDINA HONORED

by David Spero

On February 3rd, a community celebration will be held honoring Leon Medina, the Examiner news vendor at 16th and Mission. Leon will be celebrating his 83rd birthday with his many friends, neighborhood fans, wife Ricarda and other family members. Supervisor Jim Gonzalez will present Leon with a certificate of honor from the Board of Supervisors. Leon will also be presented with a city proclamation in his honor issued by Mayor Agnos.

Very few cities have newspaper vending stands left. San Francisco has a proud tradition of vendors. They don't just sell newspapers. Vendors are the eyes and ears of the neighborhood, a constant flow of information, stories and assistance to those who ask for help. Leon Medina has worked the stand at 16th and Mission for fifteen (15) years. He is a very special person and a valuable community resource. Over the years, Leon has shown a lot of kindness and warmth—a bright star on a corner that can sometimes be pretty depressing. Whether it's helping someone out with a couple of bucks or giving a mother clothes for her kids, Leon has spread a lot of good will. Knock on wood, believe it or not, Leon has never been mugged or robbed; in fact, many times Leon has sheltered women and children in



LEON MEDINA

his stand who were threatened by unsavory characters.

Leon has been an active union member all his life. Born in Santa Fe, New Mexico (his family dates back 7 generations in Santa Fe) Leon was a construction worker and member of the Laborers' Union of San Francisco, Local 468.

Leon has two daughters and two sons. The eldest son, George, is a veteran of the

Korean War. The other three are union and political activists.


Jose Medina has been in the forefront of battles for social and economic justice in San Francisco. He is director of Instituto Laboral De La az, an organization fighting for the rights of Hispanics in the workplace. Jose is also on the Police Commission and is President of St. Anthony's Foundation.

Helen Picon is a political activist for progressive candidates and causes. Helen was very active in the Agnos for Mayor campaign and is on the Citizens Committee for Community Development. Helen is not afraid to ruffle the feathers of the power brokers for a cause she believes in. Her daughter, Ruth, is head of the Senior Escort Program and is Vice-Chairman of the Latino Democratic Club, as well as serving on the Democratic Central Committee.

Helen's sister, Mary Ann, has been a trade union activist and was the first woman president of the Latin American Postal Employees.

Jose Medina attributes his family's devotion to public service all to Leon. "My mother died when I was two. My dad raised us by himself. He's never been interested in material things. He's modest and places a great deal of emphasis on people. He's people-oriented, and raised us to be sensitive to people's concerns. My dad came through the depression where people were helping each other survive. He taught us that it wasn't enough to do for yourself... that you had to do for others."

The ceremony honoring Leon will start at 12 noon. The family will be helping serve cake all day, till 5 PM. So stop by and say hello to one of the Mission's finest, Leon Medina.



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CARNAVAL WANTS YOU

CARNAVAL—THE VISION

—by Michael Page

It's February and, for those of us destined to a normal working existence here in the Mission, Mardi Gras and Rio seem too far away. We'll have to let the pre-Lenten bacchanals go by another year without us and perhaps proclaim our Pagan patronage in a more private way. I like to pretend that those Samba rhythms I hear some nights when I'm wavering between asleep and awake are vibrations from Rio, getting ready for this month of festivities. More likely, perhaps, is that my Samba dancing neighbor is partying down or in preparation for the Ethnic Dance Festival.

Mission Economic Cultural Association produces Carnival in the Mission and, as part of its efforts to broaden and popularize our event, has formulated a "working paper/draft" which is an adorable document which exhorts our little parade (started nine years ago by a small coalition of Mission cultural workers and celebrated in Precita Park) to the level of national and international importance. Here in California our traditions are "multi-" so MECA wants to make Carnival a unity of many things all at the same time.

The yet unreleased draft refers to Carnival as a "regional event . . . destined to replace the Indianapolis 500 as the celebration most associated with Memorial Day weekend in the national collective conscious." (sic.) When is Memorial Day?

WHAT I LIKE ABOUT MECA'S promo is their effort to broaden the meaning of Carnival and attribute several themes to the celebration. Their verbiage hints of mystical understandings that perhaps I am not ready for yet but is true to the dynamics of this broad vision of multi-culturalism.



"... Renewal of Life . . . and this year, the rallying cry used by Berkeley based, since departed, Indian mystic Meher Baba 'Don't Worry, Be Happy' is expected to play a prominent role . . ." After all, some of us do too much worrying.

And admittedly, agrees MECA, Carnival must be flamboyant if it is to be San Franciscan . . . "extravagance, mask and glitter, fiery color and scanty costumes, pleasures of the flesh and liberation from social norms" are aspects of our positive celebration of life. This theme ties into what the Carnival Producers are calling "The Reversal Phenomenon". (I saw some of that at Esta Noche last Sunday night. But seriously, in our fantasies we may take other forms and, in this city, we have many forms to choose from.

But Carnival, we all agree, is happening. It's on the rise and looking back on where it came from. It embodies Mother Earth and Yemaya, Africa in Latin Quarters, a "return to the ancient theme of worshipping a Mother goddess of nature, agriculture or renewal"—(read—not redevelopment) . . . And it is the drum, my favorite skin—"a primal energy that is not to be understood, just respected." And it is a mixture and a peaceful one and I know I feel healed when I dance and surrender myself to the Spirit of Carnival.

We salute MECA in their work at keeping our attention to the deeper meanings of our multi-ethnic community rituals. Of course we want Carnival to go all night long and to be able to play together with the fire and the moon and the mystery and then to go to sleep with the sun, renovating our daily patterns and routine. This is an element of the tradition that is yet to break in to the Spirit Of San Francisco police but we are building up to something. "We must be careful, because the creative energies necessary for growth are sensitive."

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CRIME: THE MISSION FIGHTS BACK

COMMUNITY WIDE MEETING SET FOR MARCH 15

414 WAR

The special police task force that has been assigned to clean up the Mission's number one crime spot (reporting area 414, bounded by Valencia, South Van Ness, 15th and 17th Streets) racked up some impressive statistics in the final months of 1988. Citations issued and arrests made by the task force in the 414 boundary and immediate environs totalled 1,370 for November and December. Citizen complaints to Mission Station regarding the 414 area, sometimes called the Devil's Quadrangle, are down 40%, according to Station Captain Michael Brush. This is a dramatic reversal in a 3-year trend of increasing crime and violence around the 16th Street BART Plaza.

Although the 30-man task force maintained a constant level of activity during both November and December, total arrests and citations declined from 876 in November to 494 in December demonstrating that, at least in the short run, the clean up effort is reducing the amount of crime in area 414.

"The approach has proved so successful that we're going to use it in other problem spots such as the Valencia Gardens and Army Street housing projects," said Captain Brush.

Police Department data sheets for the 60-day period show a sharp decrease in alcohol-related incidents from 229 in November to 159 in December. Drug-related arrest and citation totals also plummeted from 125 in November to 72 in December. MUNI transfer sale violations were also down slightly from 27 in November to 24 in December.

KOBAN PLAN

As the crackdown continues, a coalition of community organizations and businesses are looking at long term solutions to the Mission crime problems and have

scheduled a community meeting for March 15 at Hawthorne School at 7 PM that is expected to draw upwards of 200 people. Although the town-hall style meeting will deal with the broad issue of crime in the Mission, the meeting will also serve as a kickoff to the drive to get a police kiosk at 16th and Mission. The kiosk project has been the subject of several months of meetings between the Mission Safety Committee (MSC—including the North Mission Association, Mission Hiring Hall, Walgreen's Drugs and Mission Neighborhood Health Center) and Supervisor Jim Gonzalez. The MSC feels the kiosk is essential to providing a permanent crime deterrent at the BART Plaza.

Initially, the project was believed to be fundable through a \$10-15,000 pledge of support from Rene de la Rosa, owner of KIQI radio, but a detailed examination of the kiosk's cost, including staffing, showed a minimum of \$31,000 was necessary to make the project workable. De la Rosa has generously offered air time on KIQI on Saturday, March 18 for a telethon to raise the remaining amount.

Specifics of the kiosk plan which, so far, has met with only lukewarm reaction from the budget restricted SFPD, are being worked out this month. Success will depend almost entirely on the level of sentiment from Mission businesses, organizations and residents in terms of both time and money. Supervisor Gonzalez is confident in this regard, saying "The community on the move will solve the problem. The kiosk will show the SFPD they must pay more attention to us."

A detailed report on the kiosk plan, the town hall meeting and KIQI telethon will appear in the March issue of the North Mission News. If you are interested in getting involved in this project, call Tim Dana (476-8431) for more information.

VALENCIA GARDENS GETS ORGANIZED: WITTE WAFFLES

"On Saturday, January 28th," stated a press release the News received, "a small part of the most dangerous and drug-infested areas of San Francisco became a cleaner and safer area thanks to the organized efforts of many brave, angry, tenacious, frustrated and committed people.

"The newly formed Valencia Gardens Review Project (VGRP) signed a 21-point agreement with Deputy Mayor William Witte, acting head of the S.F. Housing Authority, kicking off a major, ongoing program of repairs and improvements to correct a situation which has been dangerous to the health and safety of the residents as well as a source of concern to all who live and work in the area."

Unfortunately this little ray of optimism proved a fantasy.

Bureaucratic squabbles between Witte's office and the City Housing Commission culminated in an angry and insulting fiasco in which the Deputy Mayor refused to sign the agreement, denounced the presence of the media, set his own staff to collecting garbage and painting over graffiti while the cameras clicked, reporters took quotes and notes and the puzzled community and project representatives waited at the St. John's Church a block away for a ceremony that never manifested.

The agreement unsigned, Witte and crew departed, advising Examiner reporter Steven Chin that he "agreed with most of the items" in the agreement.

Among these provisions are stronger commitments to comply with building codes and get vacant apartments, now subject to vandalism, back on the market. The Police Department, Head Start and other

appropriate agencies will implement drug-abuse, child-care, employment counseling and other services and to assist the tenants in the formation of an elected tenant association.

VGRP, which is made up of representatives of Valencia Gardens, parishioners of nearby St. John's Church, the San Francisco Organizing Project and the North Mission Safety Council first met almost a year ago. The main concern was dealing with the increase in crime, drug usage and violence. Due to some enthusiastic people, however, the group kept having monthly meetings. Over a period of nearly a year . . . so goes the press release . . . the people began to band together to reclaim their community as they slowly learned to trust each other, work together and discover that they did indeed have the power to change the climate of fear at Valencia Gardens.

But, evidently, the climate of fear and power-grubbing at City Hall has put the situation on hold. "I will not be your pawn!" residents were told by the Deputy Mayor, in apparent response to reports of a struggle with the Housing Commission. "I will not be part of a media circus!" Nonetheless, Witte is prominently pictured in the Sunday Ex in his Boston Celtics sweat-shirt holding a bag of garbage in one hand and what looks like an old bicycle inner tube in the other as if trying to figure out how to make the visible blight of the project jump through its hoop.

VGRP member Dave Hurlbert told Chin he thinks Witte remains "supportive" and added "This is not a Housing Authority program that is being hoisted on the tenants."

Perhaps this fact is at the root of the Housing Commission's reluctance to admit that people, not bureaucrats, can be an implement of change.

STRANGE SOUVENIRS

The World in the 1920's

Photographs by
Claudia Lea Phelps

January & February, 1989

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OWLS, PIGEONS, 500 YEARS AND CHILAQUILES

At Mission and 23rd there is a little grocery store called "THAT'S IT". On the side of its wall facing 23rd is a mural created by the underground muralists of La Mision. It depicts palm trees and a dreamy tropical landscape that makes me feel like buying another ticket to the Caribbean, but I never do. I like this mural, as it signifies the kind of positive image and color theory that is beginning to be the makeup of the best hub of this pueblo.

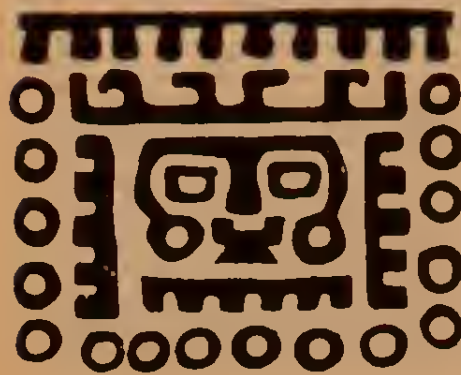
I noticed that, over a short period of time, the pigeon droppings were working against the store owner's efforts to provide a great exterior, and this fact put me into quite a few conversations while standing at his counter ruminating about the many ways to get rid of pigeons without upsetting the status quo. Anyone who knows about pigeons will tell you that once they select a roost, they move right in to that spot. Probably the same pigeons dropping the same scat every day.

What a mess, and no one that I know of had ever been able to come up with a polite solution. Pigeons do end up on menus in S.F., and are also entrapped in rather unpleasant ways. If they live through the various ordeals, they are sure to limp back to their same spot on the overhang of their old roost. THAT'S IT has been getting the "that's it" in maximum amounts lately.

So, last week while passing by, I looked up above their doorway to see how things were going. The old, dirty awning had been removed, the store was bright and cheerful, and not more than one or two pigeons were in sight. I stood on the street-corner in classic amazement at what I perceived to be the reason for the missing pigeons. There, hanging by a rope from the end of a pole, directly in line with the offending ledge was a large plastic tree owl, swinging in the wind! I had never seen a large plastic tree owl for sale anywhere before, but the amazing fact was the perfect primitivism of the solution. No chemicals, no "squab", no gruesome situations to deal with, and the front of the store was clean for probably the first time in the history of the building. This was revolutionary thought.

This, I thought, could become the fodder for discussions at yearly conferences between architects and ecologists. This, I thought, could create a whole new industry in at least this one city. Hoorah! I must run right out and announce to the world such a brilliant solution.

The next time you're at the corner of 23rd and Mission, look up above the doorway of THAT'S IT, and take a look at the solution to the pigeon problem so long sought for by another (who shall be unnamed) columnist (famous for his dangling participles and other strange-d-jim things). Just tell him for me that a "guy from Colombia in the bar next door" beat him to it. Of course, he could retrieve his hirsute reputation by finding out where we can find more large plastic owls?



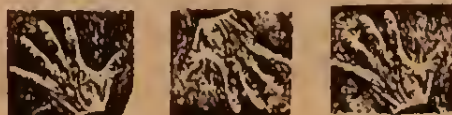
In 1992 the observance of the 500 years of resistance by the indigenous people of the Americas will be observed by many people gathering all over the globe for various events apart of same. Many of those involved are now coming into the Mission to meet and put together the network for the events of 1992. If any of our readers would like to make contact in order to contribute their energy and creativity or just to network information, they can call the La Puerta studio at 695-1373, also publisher of the new journalistic magazine for the Mission "LA MANO".

The North Mission News and La Mano will both be involved to some extent in the next three years in reporting on activities as it applies to the Mission District residents, and we will be happy to put you in touch with the principle people through La Puerta. My tips for this month are what I consider to be some of the best chilaquiles found south of the border at the best price. Go to the LA QUINTA restaurant between 19th and 20th on Mission between 7:00 AM and 11:00 AM and join the campesinos who have already discovered this great traditional Mexican breakfast, complete with rice, beans and "en casa" thick homemade tortillas for only \$2.50...



And just around the corner on 20th and So. Van Ness is another great new place, the "LOS JARRITOS". Also a great menu, but excels beyond the food with a wonderful traditional Mexican interior designed and brought into being by the owner, Dolores. She drove to Mexico in her van and brought all those "little clay cups" back herself. Both of these new places have great Latin sounds on the jukebox.

Definitely worth the experience, and these businesses are the precursors of what is yet to be "the real La Mision". Have a look and taste... PAZ.



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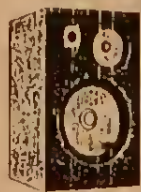
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SUN-WED San Francisco Theatrical Premiere
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Dir. Robert Gardner US 1987

Robert Gardner is a fine independent filmmaker who recently relocated to the Bay Area. King James Version, which premiered at the SF International Film Festival in 1987, is a complex and compelling story, set in Harlem and the South, of a young girl's attempt to come to terms with the competing religious beliefs within her family. Rachel's father wants the church to protect his family from the dangers and sorrows of the outside world, while her mother goes on crusades to take God to the streets. Rachel is faced not only with the typical adolescent struggles of gaining independence, but is under the unusual stress of having to declare her own relationship to the church. There are no grand revelations, no Hollywood tying-up of loose ends, but Gardner skillfully portrays the claustrophobia of a family at odds with itself, and Rachel's hesitant steps toward wisdom are very human and movingly portrayed. (91m)

\$5/\$4 with card;

CLARENCE AND
ANGEL

first two weekend shows

\$4/\$3 with card; seniors \$3; children

Sun: 2:40, 6:00, 9:15

Mon-Wed: 9:15

Dir. Robert Gardner US 1981

This earlier work by Gardner again reveals his sensitivity in capturing the beauty and vulnerability of youth on film. Clarence and Angel become friends when they repeatedly are made to stand outside their

respective classrooms as punishment. Clarence is shy and defensive because he can't read. Angel is a hysterical little dervish who just wants to act out all the parts in a kung-fu movie at the same time. They are the first ones to take each other seriously, and together they learn that they both have a lot to give. Short and sweet. Angel is a scream. (75m)

FRI THURS US Theatrical Premiere
FEB MAR
24 2 THE TEMPTATION



7:15,9:15 with weehend shows at 1:15,3:15,5:15

Dir. Dieter Berner Austria 1987

Life for a teenager is a mix of dreams, loves, heroes and disappointments. Young Rudi finds life in 1956 Austria no exception. He's so infatuated with Brigitte Bardot that he fantasizes about her coming to life from her cardboard seat on a movie marquee, and he thinks of little else but going to France and declaring his love to her. But as the date for the trip approaches, he finds that there's plenty to keep him busy at home: a pretty older neighbor to flirt with, a young girl to fight for, a man with ideals to look up to and defend. This is a clever, funny, moving film. It's not about "coming of age," but about being a teenager, with all the twists and turns a young life can take. (subtitled; 105m) Tickets \$5/\$4 with card; first two weekend shows \$4/\$3 with card; seniors \$3; children \$3

NEIGHBORHOOD

BEAT

DRUG COUNSELING CENTER OPPOSED

Neighborhood protests are mounting over a proposed expansion of a drug abuse counseling center on Mission near Duboce (just past the freeway overpass). Walden House is proposing to expand their drug counseling program located at the Construction Center.

Long established neighborhood businesses have started a petition drive and lobbying effort to derail the fast track approval of the expansion. Representatives from Schwarz Sausage, the Soundtrack Bar, Woodward Gardens Veterinary Hospital, Van Ness Plaza, Home Sausage

and other businesses recently met to discuss the project. They were joined by residents, and have slated a neighborhood meeting February 2nd at 7 PM at the Soundtrack Bar.

A hearing before the Public Health Commission is slated for February 7th. The businesses opposed emphasized that they were not opposed to treatment programs, but felt the North Mission had become saturated with public agencies and programs that upset the balance of the area. Walden House was criticized for being vague with regard to their plans and for their failure to notify the community.

KQED OK DELAY

San Francisco's Planning Commission postponed action on the application of KQED television to move its facility from 8th and Bryant Street to a proposed site on Mariposa in the North Mission near 18th and Bryant.

Despite a minimum of community opposition, the Commissioners held the matter over due to the possibility of future conflict with the adjacent Best Foods plant which employs over 200 blue collar workers. Some of the Commissioners felt that noise from the railroad that serves Best Foods would provoke future conflicts that would force the City to choose between two valued North Mission employers. They directed the KQED attorney to negotiate an appropriate agreement with

Best Foods that would not jeopardize the plant (famous, as one Commissioner stated, for their mayonnaise) while minimizing the impact of the railroad's whistle on sound recording at the proposed facility.

KQED presently produces only one live local program, the weekly half-hour Express. Community negotiations have included the possibility of more responsive San Francisco-related programming, but no concrete proposal has yet been forthcoming from KQED.

If approved, the existing KQED studios South of Market probably would be rented to Channel 44, KBHK, enhancing the North Mission/South of Market's film/video/broadcast industry

SUCKERS!

Last fall campaign consultant Jack Davis spent \$800,000 of your landlord's (your) money on advertisements to the effect that if rent increases were limited, landlords would "pass through" various expenses that the advertising implied were presently taboo. Surprise! Surprise! Surprise! In the December issue of Apartment Bulletin, Mr. Davis reports:

"I was shocked in the course of the campaign to have property owners call me up

on the telephone and say, 'Mr. Davis, I happened to see this brochure about passsthroughs, is that in Prop. U? Are there passthrough provisions in Prop U?' I would say 'No ma'am or no sir, that's the way it is right now.' 'You mean I could pass through costs now?' 'Yes ma'am, I suggest you call,' and would give some numbers."

Some of you voted against Prop. U because you thought it would raise your rents, didn't you? Suckers!

SYCAMORE STREET

We're Looking Good!!!

Sycamore Street is looking pretty good these days. New paint jobs, special construction projects, no more winos and whores, and a lot less garbage in the gutters. We owe ourselves a little congratulations for doing a good job. Neighborhood spirit is very important to our well being and the security of our lives. Let's keep it going for good!

NEW BOHEMIA? ARE THEY KIDDING?

The San Francisco Chronicle seems bent on creating an illusion out of delusion by running stories by cub reporters and second-rate reviewers who

are trying to make themselves famous for having discovered a "New Bohemia" right here in the Mission. True, there are many more artistically oriented people in the Mission than any other place in town. True, there are more political radicals in the Mission than any other place in town. And true, there's more feeling of community in the Mission than any other place in town. But the old farts that run the Chronicle have no right to give our revolution a name. They did it with North Beach and they did it with the Haight, now the rents are so high only yuppies can live there, and yuppies are as artistic as toilet paper rolls.

TRANSIT HONORS

A dinner at the St. Francis January 10th honoring exemplary MUNI workers included a buffet meal, a raffle and speeches by Mayor Agnos and other city officials. Everyone expressed regret that there were no Superbowl tickets to give away this year. On the other hand, said General Manager Bill Stead, "Isn't this party location an improvement over the car barn?"

Raffle prizes including trips to Hawaii, Phocnix and Reno and gift certificates for limo service went to MUNI employees Peter Perry, Kenneth Rodriguez, Raymond Rezos, Sheila Mullen, James Chisholm, Jr. and others. As Agnos pointed out, paraphrasing Pat Brown, "A drawing like this creates 50 unhappy people and one ingrate." We hope the ingrates — excuse us, prizewinners — enjoy their winnings.



THE 'BIG PIERCE' GOES ABOARD THE IRISH FERRY AT STRANRAER

STRANGE SOUVENIRS

"Strange Souvenirs" is a documentary and photographic show. It presents the photos taken by Claudia Lea Phelps on a series of cruises during the 1920's, the heyday of steam ship travel. Ms. Phelps was able to reach parts of the world not then easily accessible. Her contacts with, and impressions of the natives are fresh and idiosyncratic. The handtinting of the original magic lantern slides adds a surreal quality to the photographs. The subtle color quality gives some of the photos an ethereal and almost contemporary effect.

The subject matter is broad in its scope and deadpan in its humor. We find ourselves faced with an Indonesian farmer

proudly bearing a pig beneath his arm and then by a Brazilian snake farmer displaying the proper way to hold a poisonous snake. A young woman looks ill at ease as a hunched and aged Laplander smiles at her before his hut. In the same photo, another woman, perhaps a black woman, stares across the scene disapprovingly. Most odd is the photo "Waller and Young Phelps at Lincoln, 1912". Young Phelps floats in the 2-dimensional space like a balloon above his solid but tiny dog.

"Strange Souvenirs" appears at the Buffet Flat Bookstore, 307 Cortland Avenue and will run through the end of February.

SOUTH OF MARKET

PARKING PANIC

Approximately 200 South of Market residents and businesspeople crowded into the Hall of Justice auditorium last month to hear the details of the long awaited (or feared) preferential parking plan.

Intermittant efforts to obtain a sticker system like that in North Beach have been going on for fifteen years, but the recent addition of large numbers of nightclubs to the neighborhood commercial/residential mix as well as the persistence of out-of-town commuters who park in alleys and take a short MUNI hop to the Financial District finally prompted the Department of Public Works to conduct a parking survey... the first step in establishing a sticker system.

Norman Bray of DPW circulated the results of the survey to those attending. Highlights included a finding that 74% of the cars parked South of Market are owned by non-residents as opposed to 15% registered at addresses between the freeway, the bay, the Embarcadero and Market Street (11% could not be identified). The DPW also concluded that 3,311 resident and non-resident vehicles compete for 2,102 legal parking spaces. Bray called the over 150% occupancy "the highest percentage we found in the City."

DPW has proposed that certain South of Market streets would be posted with time limit signs of from a half-hour to two hours or more. Cars with permit stickers would be exempted. Residents would be able to purchase a sticker for \$16 and businesses of any size would also be allowed to buy one sticker. These regulations have, predictably, divided the commercial from the residential users.

Curtis Gray, an active lobbyist for residential parking, supported the program as "not leading to less parking, but to less tickets for residents."

But the businesspeople disagreed. "Do you want blue collar jobs to continue moving to Oakland?" one asked. Others expressed concerns that their block might be zoned for stickers even if no residents lived there.

"This is a residential parking program," Bray emphasized. "The program discriminates. It has to." He responded to concerns about sticker fees and parking meters by asserting that parking regulations were formulated to facilitate the flow of traffic, not to generate revenue in fees and fines for the City (a statement loudly disputed by both merchants and residents) and held out little hope for more affordable garages in the near future.

"The price of land in the City is so high, when you try to build garages it will drive up the cost of parking."

Many details are still being addressed and those which seem likely to provoke the most controversy are multiple businesses at a single address, the addition of highrise housing complexes such as South Beach which Bray admitted "will present a problem", stickers for illegal artists and service providers such as Senior Escort and Meals on Wheels whose vehicles may or may not qualify and the nightclub problem.

"I live near where the clubs are and they park on my street until 4, 5 in the morning," said one elderly woman, "and when I come home from work at 3 in the morning, where do I park. On top of my head?"

Another issue that is likely to affect both South of Market and some North Mission residents is the extent of the so-called "demilitarized zone". According to Bray and City Planner Susana Montana, stickers will be offered to residents just outside the area, although whether this opportunity extends to, for example, 14th, 15th or 16th Street is still undecided.

The parking controversy is certain to persist until the law goes into effect. "It's ethical to give first preference to residents because business owners have enough money to afford garages," was the view of one resident.

Tricia James of the South of Market Business Association strongly disagreed, predicting that the plan "is going to lead to block-by-block turf war!"

The City agencies in the middle, however, appear determined to press on, simply because the problem has reached the critical mass.

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OVER THE CITY

by The Pigeon

A colder, stranger nation in this short month of commercial love one pigeon sees in flying over the City keeping an eye out for something to eat . . . perhaps a bag of popcorn spilled and glinting in the winter sun. A season for anger and planning painted by the brush of artists Leon Golub and Sue Coc, profiled in two films at both A.T.A. (8:30 PM) and Komotion (somewhat later) Saturday the 4th. If George Bush pisses you off enough, buy a copy of Coc's "X", read it once and send it Federal Express to the White House.

Pigeon-droppings: The closing of Vis Valley's Maxi-Care clinic equals longer waits and finger-rubbing does for the poor and the sick mean heavier burdens on already-overwhelmed facilities like San Francisco General. One of our cheapest markets has been making pigeons out of some of their customers when clerks put your shrimp or stewmeat on the scale, state the price and then . . . twist scale and sack . . . deftly "palm" a portion of the produce. Quick hands, fellows, but not quick enough for The Pigeon!

A gob of scientists hit town last month and instead of coming up with ways to fight existing diseases they discussed ways of inventing new ones in hushed tones in squalid little rooms away from the view of all but the pigeons. Confronted at the door by biowarfare skeptics, one gene splicer screamed out "We're threatened by everybody!" More weird science: the toxic waste squad debating in a City Hall basement bunker what to do with the stuff concocted some interesting ideas. One: im-

"free" land in exchange for secret SP zoning concessions, our Mayor has come to the conclusion that what they really wanted was two projects with twice the parking mess and twice the cost and twice the corny backroom deals. Don't be surprised if alternate plans, such as a single combination downtown stadium-arena or a Candlestick toupee fight their way to the ballot in November.

(A pigeon drop to Mayor Art: get rid of some of your stadium PR flaks fast! One is making the rounds of the neighborhoods urging folks to "trust" real-estate speculators like SP and their attorneys earning beaucoups of bug-eyed stares and converting dihard Crazy Krabs into drooling, voracinus Nimbys (not-in-my-back-yard types like a few Potrero Hill imperialists whose idea of their back yard still rambles north to China Basin.)

The home stadium edge: Thai junior bantamweight champion Khaosai Galaxy knocked out Tae Il Chang at "a temporary stadium in Samut Prakarn province east of the Thai capital of Bangkok." The Chronicle, which never errs, informs us that: "The stadium is home to more than 35,000 crocodiles." Hear that, Bob Lurie?

Sports, sports, sports! The Niners rule, of course but this old popcorn pecker shakes its beak at how our Superheroes were shoveled into cheezy, hard-to-look-into, overpriced motorized cable cars for their "tribute". Next year, won't someone p-p-puh- leeze get on the horn to John Taylor to order up a few dozen of Reggie Jackson's finest vintage chariots instead of



Leon Golub in his New York City studio.

plement the plan to dredge old toxic waste up and out of the bay at Hunter's Point even tho' Mo is No Mo, then fill up the hole with the new TW. Two: if redevelopment property ain't exempted, spread it out next door to Moscone Center; then the Yerba Buena gardens can be really wrld class . . . we are talking sixteen foot blue toadstools, spongy, squishy shrubbery and poison purple olive trees with no leaves to keep all the homeless from nesting 'neath the bowers. Attorneys are scurrying to implement.

Not in the cards for YBC is baseball, but that doesn't mean the absence of a new stadium conflict as the City struggles to assuage the appetites of Giants' owner Bob Lurie for stadia and Mission Bay owners Southern Pacific for highrise offices and luxury condos. Since the voters rejected a scheme for nne ballpark to be built on

these embarrassing vehicles which should be restricted, by law, to ferrying Cincinnati life insurance salesmen from Wharf to Nordstrom's to Moscone.

Silver linings in the little cloud that cried: the S.F. Rec and Park Department threw out the case against Food Not Bombs serving the hungry of the Haight. Seems they would have had to carry Mother T's nuns off to jail as well . . . hard to believe, but the Civic Center Plaza is, legally, a park. And more good news via Bangkok, Vietnam has devalued the dong! Used to be you'd get 400 to the dollar. Now, it's 2,800.

Next to baseball, spring means driving with the top down and some top-down rock and roll blasting out of an AM radio too beat to steal. The Pigeon picks the Outer Mission's Jerry Shelfer's new release "Heart For My Heart" as this

spring's anthem. Shelfer sharpened his repertoire at joints like the Albion, he's a knowledgeable musicologist with first-class sidemen and a class guy too . . . at the record release party at the I-Beam he dedicated one number to opening act the Alley Boys (a Church Street trio who might be making their own top-down music come spring of '90).

Jerry Shelfer and his band will be at the Paradise Lounge on 11th and Folsom on

the 16th and "Heart For My Heart" is available at uh . . . uh . . . well maybe Rough Trade up on 6th or somewhere in the Castro? The Haight? Seriously, can any neighborhood (especially one that contains either a quarter or a half of the City's musicians, depending on who you believe) call itself the "New Bolcemia" without at least one decent record store?

A hard, strange month . . . this . . . in affairs of birds and men. Nolo contender.

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Review/Film

Life Without Father, in 'A Hungarian Fairy Tale'

By JANET MASLIN

The title of Gyula Gazdag's haunting fable amounts to a slight redundancy, since the story of "A Hungarian Fairy Tale" could not take place anywhere else. It grows luxuriantly out of a unique peculiarity of Hungarian law, one that requires the birth certificate of an illegitimate child to bear some paternal name, only paternal name, once the child reaches 3 years of age. A name must be fabricated even if the real father's identity is unknown.

Mr. Gazdag uses the inspired unreasonableness of this edict as the jumping-off point for an elegantly realized black-and-white daydream. His film begins on a near-magical note, with the romantic, wordless meeting of a beautiful young woman and a handsome stranger at a performance of "The Magic Flute," an encounter that results in the birth of Andris (David Vermes). As Andris's lovely mother (Maria Varga) explains to a local registry clerk (Frantisek Husak), there is no father's name to be listed. So she and the clerk collaborate on inventing a name, address and even an occupation — bricklayer — for the nonexistent man.

Years later, bricks again play a role in this eerie and fanciful tale. Andris's smiling mother strolls down the street on a sunny day, looking perfectly serene, when a brick falls out of the sky. The boy is left alone in the world, but he does not know that. He believes that the man listed on the birth certificate can be found, and he sets out to locate him.

The journey on which Andris embarks signals a departure from the mainstream, a break with the kind of restrictive culture that produces absurdities like the birth-certificate rule in the first place. As the boy frees himself, the film breaks loose in its own way. It becomes more and more dreamlike, progressing in a breathless and sometimes briskly elliptical

style, as a couple of the characters who played important roles in Andris's early days now reappear and join him in his rebellion. Mr. Gazdag re-shapes these characters' frustrations into an exhilarating taste of freedom.

The film's springy pace and liberating energy lift it beyond the realm of mere fantasy. Mr. Gazdag, whose other films include the documentary "Package Tour," succeeds this time in creating a delicate mixture of dreamy reverie and harsh fact. "A Hungarian Fairy Tale," which opens today, manages to capture the poignant

any of Andris's plight without losing sight of its allegorical dimensions, thanks to the mundane if peculiar touches that punctuate his story. For a time, he is cared for by a seemingly normal family with striking problems of its own, in another part of the film, he falls in with a troop of scouts armed with live ammunition. In the end, as the danger around him heightens, he joins forces with an impromptu new family and quite literally takes flight.

"A Hungarian Fairy Tale" has been photographed in a handsome, bright and yet vaguely mysterious style that gives free reign to Mr. Gazdag's far-reaching imagination.



A scene from "A Hungarian Fairy Tale," Gyula Gazdag's film about the pitfalls of bureaucracy.

Seeking Oneself

A HUNGARIAN FAIRY TALE, directed by Gyula Gazdag, written (Hungarian with English subtitles) by Mr. Gazdag and Miklos Gyorffy, photography by Elemér Ragályi. Running time: 97 minutes. This film has no rating.

Andris
Maria
Orban
Young woman

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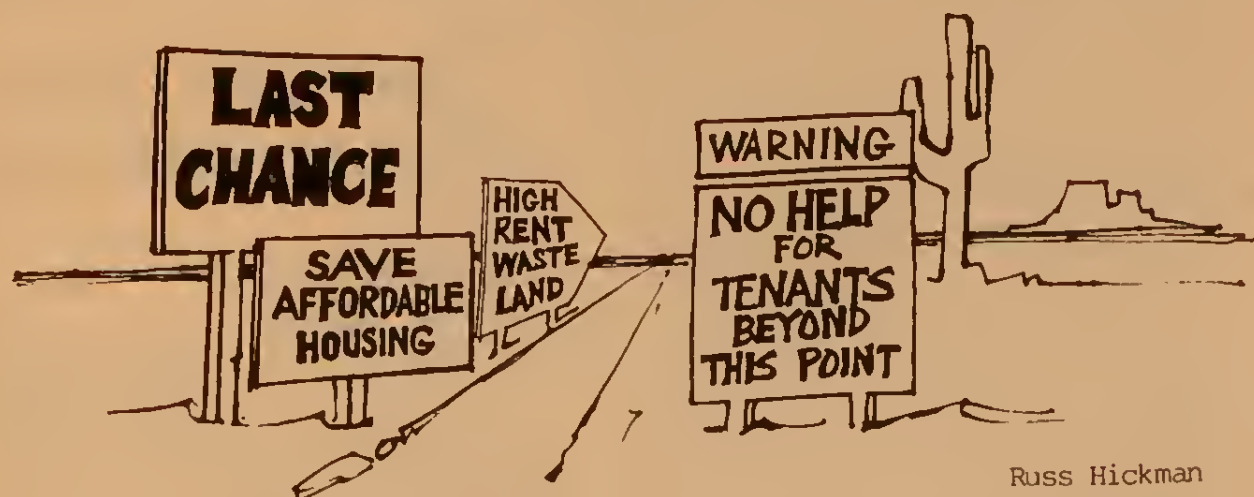
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TENANT TIMES

VOLUME X, NO. 1

Newsletter of the San Francisco Tenants Union

FEBRUARY-MARCH, 1989



Russ Hickman

Last Stop for Vacancy Control

Supervisor Harry Britt is moving quickly to finalize his draft of vacancy control legislation for action by the SF Board of Supervisors sometime this spring—*perhaps as early as Feb. 28th*.

Britt's vacancy control would prevent rent hikes greater than 10% on vacant apartments, and would rely on landlords to disclose to new tenants the previous rent level.

With the addition of two new supervisors—Terrence Hallinan and Angela Alioto, both of whom campaigned as vacancy control supporters—the votes seem to be there. The two new guys would be joined by Supervisors Britt, Nelder, Walker, Ward and Kennedy in supporting some form of vacancy control. Sup. Gonzales is "reconsidering" his past opposition, Hongisto has a conflict of interest, Maher and Hsieh are opposed. In addition, the Mayor, Art Agnos, is pledged to sign. (See stories on Nov. election in *Winter Tenant Times*.)

Why We Need Vacancy Control

The current rent stabilization law, which was passed in 1979, places a 4% to 7% limit on annual rent increases on covered San Francisco apartments. But here's the eye of the needle where whole herds of camels (laden with speculators) can be driven: when housing units become vacant, there is *no limit whatsoever* on rent increases! This is known technically as *vacancy decontrol*, or *VD*; what we have been fighting for, for these many years, is affectionately called *vacancy control* or *VC*.

This diabolical glitch promotes a speculative festival in residential housing, i.e. our homes, fueling the city's runaway inflation in rents. Since vacant apartments can be re-rented at—to use the sad but famous phrase—"whatever the market will bear," a horrendous incentive to eviction is created. Long term, loyal tenants find themselves uncereemoniously booted out; new tenants can't rent vacant apartments without paying absurd portions of their income.

Under the current regime of *VD*, satisfied, long-term tenants thus become a financial liability to their landlords. High turnover, short term tenancies are the most profitable.

Two-thirds of San Francisco households rent. Of these, now more than 70% could not afford to pay rent at "market rate." And, of course, most have long since been effectively priced out of possible home ownership.

Britt Bill's Big Ten

The current draft vacancy control legislation circulating in back rooms is essentially a retread of the legislation that passed the Board in 1984 but was vetoed by Mayor Feinstein. One big change: the 14% allowed in that bill is now apparently set at 10% for increases for re-renting a vacant apartment. This 10% can be charged only once in every two years, however. But the 10% is only the beginning of what the bill would give the landlords: the "banked" amount of any previous (4-7%) yearly rent increase passed by, plus any capital im-

provements increases hanging on from previous tenants, plus any rehab costs incurred while the apartment was vacant. This last surcharge is interesting since the "vacancy allowance" upon re-renting is usually rationalized as a way to finance the very same vacant apartment rehab/fixups. Here we have a kind of "double dipping." Given all this, many tenants have difficulty in understanding why landlords—who already get an automatic 4-7% per year—should get *any* increase at all, let alone 10% for merely re-renting a vacant unit. The Vacancy Control Campaign Committee has urged that Sup. Britt lower the "vacancy allowance" in his draft bill to the same 4-7% (depending on inflation—now 4%) allowed for each unit yearly. What do you think? Does the fact that many units are now within (or less) than 10% of market rates encourage landlords to go for more than otherwise? But then, what about "political realism"? Let Sup. Britt (554-5145) and the other Supes know what you think!

The Kindness of Strangers

Unlike virtually all other city rent control laws with *VC*, the Britt draft now proposes a novel scheme: landlord *disclosure* of previous rents to new tenants. The alternative is *prior registration* with the Rent Board of all rents, by the landlord, with the payment of a fee which completely finances the operation of the rent law. This is the

Cont. on Page 2

Zen Center "Evicting" Students

On Thursday, January 19, six families and individuals living in a building on Page Street, received in the mail a shock that will distress them for months if not years to come. They all received 30 day eviction notices.

The building, 307 Page St. is right across the street from the San Francisco Zen Center (ZC) and was, until two months ago, owned by The Neighborhood Foundation (TNF), a creation of ZC. All the tenants, some families with children and some singles, are long time Zen Center members and former members who have lived peacefully here for years. How they have come to face eviction is a story that illustrates the corruption and present disgrace of the leaders of that once reknowned religious organization, founded by Suzuki Roshi.

Zen Center, as a religious organization, is tax exempt and non-profit. This status has allowed it to receive large amounts of donations and to buy property. The money was given to further the

Cont. on Page 3

Rent Board Eyes Rule Changes

The San Francisco Rent Control Board has proposed some major changes in its rules and regulations which could mean higher rents for many of the city's tenants. These regulations are the local laws which govern virtually all aspects of landlord-tenant relationships in the city.

Among the major proposals is one which would allow landlords to include as capital improvements certain "repairs" which are "incidental" to actual capital improvements, thus opening up a whole new range of costs which could be passed on directly to tenants. Another major change would allow one-time rent increases to bring an apartment's rent to a "comparable" level, regardless of whether the landlord's actual operating and maintenance costs had increased at all. Such changes, when allowed previously provided a limit on such increases; that limit would be eliminated.

As we go to press, the Rent Board has scheduled a public hearing on these changes, on January 31. Other hearings may be scheduled later, and you can call either the Rent Board or the SFTU to find out the dates.

It is important that tenants make their voices heard before the Board at any further hearings, or in writing. It is certain that landlord and real estate interests—scared by the change in the wind in local politics—will be lobbying heavily for the anti-tenant changes and lobbying against some of the changes which favor tenants. It will also be interesting to see how the "new", Agnos Rent Board handles this first major decision before it.

Following are some the highlights of the proposed changes:

Capital Improvements

Capital Improvements are costs landlords can pass through to tenants in the form of rent increases. These are typically major improvements in a building, such as replacement of a roof, and even though the improvements add to the value of the building, it is the tenants which pay for the improvements.

The Rent Board has proposed that many repairs which are "incidental" to capital improvements would now qualify as capital improvements, specifically citing as an example that "repair of a foundation is considered a capital improvement and not a repair." This would open up *many* new areas which could be passed on to tenants through rent increases since many ordinary maintenance and repair costs could be claimed to be "incidental" as it's defined.

Comparable Rent Increases

This section is already a loophole in the rent control law, allowing landlord's to petition for rent increases above that allowed if they can prove the rent is not "comparable" to other units around. The proposed changes could potentially open this loophole even further.

The loophole would be widened by *eliminating* the limit on such increases to 60 percent of the CPI index. The new rule would have *no* limit, and instead would allow such increases to be granted only once per unit. In effect, this gives landlords the right to impose major rent increases on long-time tenants on a one-shot basis to bring the unit up to the landlord's perception of market value. The 60 percent of CPI limit held this loophole in check mainly because, in effect, a comparable increase was only valid if the landlord had charged no rent increases at all for many years.

Elimination of this limitation will have an unknown effect. It could be that this is being proposed presuming the passage of vacancy rent control by the Supervisors and is seen as a 'break' for smaller landlords. Or it could be that this will

Cont. on Page 3

Changing Your Locks

This month's column is devoted to protecting your rights to privacy and the quiet enjoyment of your apartment. Co-author, Ira Darter, will explain how to secure your apartment from unwarranted intrusions by your landlord or their agents. The easiest way to do this is by changing your locks. I have been told that in Germany, most tenants have their own locks which they carry with them when they change apartments. Should we be any less timid here? Contrary to common belief, your landlord does not have the right to have a key to your apartment. That apartment belongs to you! You may have to allow access from time to time, but you don't have to give him/her a key.

There are a few times where liability might occur should you change your locks. Let's take a look at them. The first place to start is with your rental agreement. Most agreements will contain a clause prohibiting *any* alterations to the premises. This clause can create a possibility of eviction under the San Francisco Rent Ordinance (Section 37.9(a)(2)), which states a just cause of eviction when 'the tenant has violated a *lawful obligation* or covenant of tenancy...and has fail(ed) to cure such violation after receiving written notice thereof from the landlord.' The solution here is to argue there is no lawful obligation to provide a key or simply put the old lock back and wait a few weeks before changing it again.

Living Lightly

Another possibility for eviction arises from Section 37.9(a) (6): "The tenant has, after written notice to cease, refused the landlord access to the rental unit as required by state and local law." This says nothing about providing a key, only providing access. Here the solution is in the state laws governing landlord entry. This is found in the California Civil Code Section 1953(a)(1). It states a landlord may enter: (1) to make needed repairs, (2) to show the property, (3) to deal with an emergency, or (4) when you invite them in. These instances are further limited by a "normal business hours" provision—9 am to 5 pm and then only after reasonable notice has been given—usually thought to be 24 hours. What you should do is record all attempts by your landlord to gain entry. Follow this up with a letter explaining why entry was not allowed. Excessive requests or abuse of this right by your landlord could result in some legal action. These cases are hard to bring unless you document the facts, so do your homework.

Other possible areas of liability are for any damages you cause by changing the lock. This can occur in the old lock itself or to the door. Just be careful when you do it. If the landlord does have to enter during an emergency and has to break in, you are liable for the damages. The important thing to remember is that even though your landlord has a right of entry, it should be on your terms because that apartment belongs to you.

You have a right to privacy and the quiet enjoyment of your apartment and where your landlord is violating your rights, you can and should take action.

If you decide that you want to change the locks on your door, you may proceed as follows:

To Change a Deadbolt: All deadbolts are basically the same and may be interchanged using the existing holes in the door. When shopping for a deadbolt to replace the one on your door, make sure you don't buy a "night lock," a "bolt lock," or a "jimmy proof lock." These are similar to a deadbolt but are not mounted on the door in the same way. So if you don't want to be drilling new holes in the landlord's door and door jamb, make sure the lock you purchase is a genuine "deadbolt."

There are many brands and grades of deadbolts. Some of the more common brands are Schlage, Dexter and Quickset. A "security" grade of these deadbolts will cost you \$30-\$40 and will be the hardest for someone to kick in. (In some cases with these locks you'll have to chisel out the door jamb a little deeper than it is if you're replacing a standard duty lock.)

The next grade is a "standard duty" deadbolt. These are reasonably strong locks and will probably keep someone out unless they are determined to kick the door in. These locks cost about \$15-\$20. The least expensive deadb lts are the cheap Taiwan imports which are sold under names such as Moss, American Secure, and Jay 'n Pak; these sell for around \$10. These usually don't have solid metal bolts, but hollow bolts with a thin solid

pin running through the center. These are the easiest to kick in.

Removal of the old deadbolt is a relatively simple matter. If you have already purchased a replacement lock, the instructions will often tell you how to remove the old one.

On the inside of the door you will find two screws in the lock. The first step is to remove these screws; they are very long and will take some time to come out. As these screws are removed, both halves of the deadbolt, inside and outside, will become loose. As the screws are finally removed, hold your hand over the outside of the lock to catch it, also being careful not to let the inside part fall. When the screws are completely out, you can pull both halves of the lock straight out. Be careful not to drop the little "tong" of metal protruding from the outside, or keyed half, of the lock. If this tong does fall out, it's easily replaced: just insert the round end of the tong into the small hole in the back of the lock so that it protrudes straight out from the lock.

You have now, in effect, removed the deadbolt.

Now that you have removed the lock, you may do one of two things. First, you could take the lock to a locksmith who will be able to re-key the existing lock cylinder so that the old key will no longer operate it. You will be given a new key which the landlord will not have. The cost for this service is usually between \$7.50 and \$10 (it will cost you over \$50 if the locksmith is called to your house to perform the same service).

Reinstalling the Lock: Take a standard slotted screwdriver and stick it through the cross-shaped or slot-shaped hole and turn it until the bolt is completely extended. Place the key half of the lock over the hole on the outside of the door, with the small tongue extending through the cross or slot-shaped hole. Then place the inside part of the lock over the inside door hole so that the tongue extends into the end of the inside half of the lock. This is where it gets tricky. You must hold both sides of the lock with one hand while you insert the first and then the second long screws through the inside half of the lock, through the bolt mechanism on either side of the tongue, and finally into the holes in the keyed half of the lock. It's a little tricky trying to hold everything and line everything up, and thread those long screws all at the same time. With a little patience and little trial-and-error, it can be done.

Once it is all together, check the lock to be certain it is operating properly. If not, you might check to make sure the two screws are not too tight, or that the tongue is properly engaged through the bolt mechanism and in both halves of the lock.

If you don't want to get the existing lock re-keyed, your second option is to replace the lock entirely. You can probably use the old bolt mechanism as these are usually interchangeable. If you do want to change the bolt mechanism, you may do so as follows: On the door edge there is a metal plate through which the bolt passes (this is where the manufacturer stamps its name if you need this information). There are two screws which attach this plate to the door edge. Once the two halves of the lock have been removed, these two screws can be removed and the bolt mechanism pulled straight out. (Note: if you want to replace this mechanism at a later time, be sure to note which is the top and which is the bottom; if it is replaced upside down, it will be impossible to reassemble the rest of the lock.) Your new deadbolt will come with detailed, illustrated instructions, and by following these your new lock may easily be installed with nothing more than a screwdriver.

by Jean Turk

JOIN IN TENANTS' UNION ACTIVITIES!

As a member you have an opportunity to become a part of the tenants movement, in a variety of interesting ways. Except for a part-time office manager & volunteer coordinator *all* of our work is done by volunteers working in such key roles as counselors (training provided), producing the newspaper, organizing tenants, raising money... For other possibilities see below. *If interested contact the Tenant Union at 282-6622 or return the coupon. No experience necessary.*

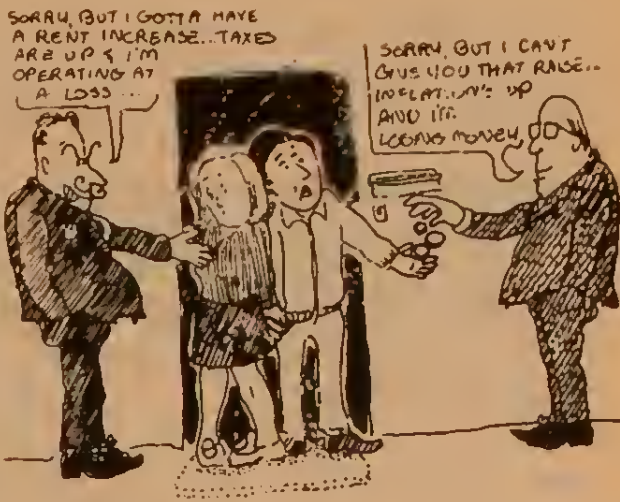
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE: The legislative and electoral action arm of the Tenants Union. The committee meets regularly. If you would like to receive regular bulletins on tenant legislation & committee activities, please leave your name at 282-6622 or return coupon.

VACANCY CONTROL LEGISLATION. Volunteers needed for all aspects of campaign to extend rent control to vacant apartments. Learn how you can help via 282-6622.

Name _____ Address _____

Phone (home) _____ (work) _____

Please add me to Legislative Committee mailing list _____ Let me know about other volunteer opportunities: Vacancy _____ Tenant Counseling _____ Newsletter _____ Research _____ Organizing _____ Fundraising _____ Office Work _____ Outreach _____ Direct Action _____ Other _____
Return to SFTU, 558 Capp St., San Francisco, CA 94110



Supes To Act On Vacancy Control

Cont. from Page 1

system used in the Berkeley, Santa Monica, and West Hollywood rent laws.

Under the Britt disclosure plan, (developed in 1984 in a vain attempt to get political acceptance by the Feinstein administration, among other things), each landlord must give a form, prepared by the landlord, to each new tenant detailing the legal rent. What if the landlord should make a mistake or even (gasp) lie? How can the new tenant know what the previous rent was? What happens? Nothing. Nothing—unless the tenant petitions the Rent Board for a hearing within 4 months of moving in. Then the Rent Board can require the landlord to prove his figures. Penalties: the Rent Board can block rent increases; civil lawsuits for "triple damages" can be filed against the sinning landlord. It would seem that this system is suited best to well informed middle & upper income tenants who are moving to a new apartment from within the city. Lower income renters, minorities, and newcomers may be somewhat out of luck. What do you think? Let the Supes and the Mayor know!

by Michael Harney

What Can You Do?

Call The Mayor and the Supervisors

State your support for the strongest possible vacancy control legislation. Be specific. What % increase upon re-renting? Should there be registration? (See story in this *Tenant Times*)

Give your own experiences with evictions from below market rate apartments.

Act quickly, vacancy control may come up as early as Feb. 28th. Call Sup. Britt, Land Use Committee, or Tenants Union to verify details/timing.

If you have experiences with evictions motivated by landlord greed for higher VD rents contact us because we need your story for public hearings. You need not personally testify. 282-6622

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Address: City Hall, SF 94102

Volunteer if you can; get on Legislative Committee mailing list for fast breaking developments. See volunteer coupon this issue.

Zen Center Selling Property

Cont. from Page 1

development of Buddhism and Zen in America and the property to establish a residential community (called Sangha). The students lived in the buildings and created and worked in Zen Center businesses, Greens Restaurant, Tassajara Summer Program, Tassajara Bread Bakery and the Green Gulch Greengrocer. Because of ZC's non-profit status as a religious organization it is excused from paying unemployment insurance to its lowly paid non-union worker/students. It also avoids paying property taxes on buildings that have greatly appreciated, along with the rest of San Francisco's land values.

The ruh came when ZC bureaucrats-chiefly, Bill Lane (Chief Accountant), Leslie James (ZC President), and Tom Cabarga (head of City ZC)-decided, without the consent of the membership, that the ZC businesses should be primarily profit makers (rather than for student/zen training) and thus invested hundreds of thousands of ZC money in expanding the Bread Bakery operation. To help implement this plan, they also decided to sell off the residential properties ZC owned in the city in order to finance the expansion of the Bakery. Because of community protest over a year ago, the plan to sell the property stalled. Now the Bakery has lost money and the new plan is to sell off the property to pay for it.

The Neighborhood Foundation is now controlled by one Zen Center priest/insider, Yvonne Rand. Ms. Rand, who resides on Muir Beach property formerly owned by the ZC community, has steadfastly claimed the right to make executive decisions on TNF properties without input from tenants or the community. ZC bureaucrats had been pushing her to sell 307 Page St. for top dollar and pay back old "loans" and accounting bills owed to ZC by TNF. The tenants and community activists urged strongly that a sale would hurt the people in the neighborhood, upset the delicate low-income neighborhood, and lead to evictions and still higher rents for all concerned.

Tenants further argued that if the buildings were to be sold, a tenant co-op or other cooperative ownership plan was a possible solution. This approach would have fit well with the Zen Buddhist spirit of Compassion, and would have been logical in that TNF was, in fact, organized as a vehicle to enable low income residents to become owners of their property and therefore have a greater stake in the neighborhood.

Much to the disappointment of the 307 residents and sympathizers in the community, Rand charac-

teristically refused the option of cooperative ownership and chose the money. All of this was accomplished with the applause of the ZC accountant, president, the abhatt (Roh Andersen) and new co-ahhatt, Mel Weisman. Zen community members were further angered that all the above resided away from the Page St. property, some on Zen property not being sold, and that all have recently received salary increases and receive a full range of fringe benefits. They have all chosen the money over the needs of and at the expense of the Sangha (community). It is the growing conclusion of many in the community, including the author of this article, that the only honorable thing left for them to do is to resign, ask for forgiveness, and then make restitution for the great errors they have made.

The tenants at 307 Page St. are certainly in for some hard times. They have begun to organize and most prefer, or have no choice, but to stay and fight. Legal assistance and community support are now being sought. Other buildings, notably 317 and 331 Page St. (4 units each, all occupied by Zen students) are now proposed to be sold in March. ZC has been told repeatedly that selling these buildings will lead to certain evictions, rent increases and community displacement. Unfortunately, the recent track record is dismal and leaves little room for hope. Though the community has voiced its concerns and opposition, to selling any of our "sacred" lands, time and again for over three years (the only official survey by ZC found over 80 percent strongly in favor of keeping the properties) the ZC officials have not listened. Instead they have answered with job firings, leaving apartments vacant for long periods, neglecting building maintenance, and simply ignoring and excluding community input.

At present, the fate of 307 Page St. tenants are on the line facing a violent and horrifying eviction. For tomorrow the tenants of 317 and 331 Page St. wait anxiously and with forboding. The day after that it could and will be others who struggle to survive in a world and people without pity or common sense.

One lesson we keep learning is maybe this: money, power and greed are the true goals in this country, city and even in this religion, and we have to recognize that that's true-even when it's yours and mine and we love them very much.

by Michael Canright

Michael Canright is a co-founder of the Tenants Union and a Zen student for over twenty years

BRIEFS

Insurgent Landlords Attack New "Agnos" Rent Board

On Jan. 17, during the public comment section of their regular weekly meeting the commissioners of the San Francisco Rent Board were given a hit of a start when they heard a call for the resignation of all four landlord representatives. No, this was not from irate tenants, but rather from members of the San Francisco Apartment House Association! They also said they would be writing to Mayor Art Agnos about the actions of neutral (homeowner) Commissioner Ruth Astle and tenant Commissioner Polly Marshall.

Apparently, some landlords have been monitoring the Rent Board's deliberations, especially rule changes (see story this issue) and feel, in the words of one insurgent, "that Ruth Astle has gone berserk" and that the landlord commissioners are now either siding with tenants or letting pro-tenant decisions happen by default.

In perhaps an ironic answer to these potshots, on Jan. 24 the unanimous Rent Board—tenants, neutrals and landlords—selected Ruth Astle, a homeowner, to serve as Rent Board President for 1989 succeeding landlord Tim Carrico.

The San Francisco Rent Stabilization Board, appointed by the Mayor, interprets city rent law. There are two landlord and two tenant commissioners, each with an alternate, plus a neutral (also with an alternate). Last summer Mayor Agnos appointed or reappointed the entire board. (See "The 'New' Rent Board" in the Fall 1988 issue of *Tenant Times* for more background.)

Landlord Income Rising Faster Than Tenants' Income

In a story the *Chronicle* labelled as "good news," people's income from rents, dividends and interest increased three times more than people's income from salaries and wages. According to the Economic Policy Institute study, the income which people-such as landlords-get from rents, dividends and interest increased by 49.9 percent from 1979-1987. The income which people-such as tenants-get from salaries and wages went up just 16.7 percent in the same period. Translated another way, it could mean that for every one dollar raise you received at work, a landlord received two dollars more from you for rent.

Missing any angle that this news might be disturbing in showing the growing disparity between people working for a living and those living off of property and other income producing investments, the *CHRONICLE* wrote: "This is good news for the Bay Area where residents tend to have more income-producing assets than other Americans. It is even better news for the richest Bay Area households and helps explain why average household income went up fastest in some of the wealthiest cities in the country."



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Rent Board Rule Changes

Cont. from Page 1

prove to be huge loophole which landlords could try to take advantage of en masse.

Change of Tenants

This is a new section of the rules clarifying who an "original" tenant is and when an apartment can be considered 'decontrolled.'

A mixed bag occurs when an original tenant, one who lives by agreement with the landlord in a rent controlled apartment, agrees with the landlord to be designated as the original tenant. If the tenant and co-tenant(s) vacate, then the apartment is decontrolled. But any new co-tenant must receive a copy of that agreement from both the original tenant and the landlord in writing.

New co-tenants would not cause decontrol, and unless the landlord gave any new tenant written notice within sixty days of when the landlord knew about her/his tenancy, the new tenant would be considered an original tenant.

Owner Occupancy

This is a good section for tenants, specifying that an owner-occupied building (and thus exempt from rent control) be one in which the owner is a "natural" person, who lives there as his/her principal place of residence (with the facts to prove this), who has at least a 50 percent ownership as recorded on the deed, and has lived there for six continuous months.

Certification of Capital Improvements

Landlords get a few breaks on the certification of capital improvements, while tenants get one procedural break in this area.

Landlords benefit by no longer needing to file each building permit and a certificate of completion when applying for capital improvements, rehabilitation or energy-conservation pass-throughs. Landlords get another break when the tenant would have to object to luxury items in common areas at the capital improvements certification hearing. If the landlord can show the items were necessary for health and safety reasons, no objection would be allowed. And, landlords benefit by being able to get a hearing to certify capital improvement work before it is completed, based on cost estimates. Tenants could object to items at

this pre-certification hearing, but at the final hearing may not raise objections which could have been raised at the first hearing.

Finally, tenants get one break through a new section which provides for administrative dismissal of capital improvements if the landlord fails to properly file for the improvements and omits information such as itemized costs and allocations and documentation of such costs.

Petition For Rent Reductions

Tenants get a break, being able to petition for a rent reduction if the landlord: (1) decreased a service added after the tenancy began; (2) failed to provide basic services provided for by Cal. Civil Code 1941.1; or, (3) failed to provide a service s/he verifiably promised before the tenancy began.

Landlord Move In

Tenants get a final break when s/he would have to be furnished by the landlord who wants to evict her/him with: (1) the identity and percentage of ownership of the landlord intending to move in; or, (2) the name and relationship of the landlord's relative intending to move in; and, (3) the name and percentage of ownership of the evicting owner.

Fire And Other Displacements

This is a whole new section which seeks to clarify some of the issues involved when a tenant is displaced by fire or some other cause. In this, the landlord would have to offer tenant's unit back to the tenant within thirty days after completion of repairs, under the same terms and conditions as existed prior to the displacement; tenants would have thirty days to accept or reject, and if they accept, landlord would have to allow them to re-occupy the unit within forty five days after acceptance.

Landlords, however, will be able to pass through to tenants any repair costs which were not covered by insurance, through the regular pass-through petition process. Landlords who attempt to relet a unit would be liable for actual and punitive damages for wrongful evictions.

by Jim Lang and
Ted Gullicksen

Housing and Jobs: Real Issues of Homelessness

Over the past five years, most Americans have learned that homelessness is a serious problem, one that looms larger and more pervasive each year. Homelessness has been very unsettling generally but also for the left. Working with the most desperate population is a recipe for strategic failure: while their needs are great and justifiably deserve ameliorization, their struggle for daily survival is so intense that such groups lack the capacity, resources, and staying power to play active roles in the building and sustaining of social movements.

On the other hand the sight of this kind of misery has moved many socialists and other progressives to act on behalf of the homeless. Our social outrage is fueled by the injustices of capitalism. We are moved; we have to do something! But what?

Homelessness is a social problem created not by bad luck, unfortunate circumstances or flaws of

larger program of both legal and extra-legal actions that connect to the larger issues of housing and jobs, these groups have created elements of community interventions in this decade.

Opportunities For Activism: First, political activists cannot work on shelters and the like without connecting this work to housing and job issues in some larger campaign. At the level of providing shelter, such work is too moralistic to be politically effective. It's also a sure-fire route to burnout as the increasing numbers of homeless people, with all their related needs, only escalate the pressures on activists to "do more."

For example, the (New York) Heights Shelter begun by homeless activist Ellen Baxter has made two significant shifts away from its own immediate work. First, the group is working a city-wide "housing justice" campaign that seeks to build 40,000 units of affordable housing by using existing legislation. This has pulled volunteers away from the unending (and, over time, politically meaningless) details of maintenance work at the housing site and has brought them into a larger arena where their localized fight has fit nicely.

Second, Baxter has begun training the once homeless tenants in how to run their own buildings. Such training joins the pragmatic moves away from staff doing all maintenance tasks to the invaluable political lessons surrounding self-organization.

Third, homeless organizations must raise a series of demands that constantly reveal the callous limitations of present public responses, and be willing to go through a mix of legal and extra-legal means. As seen with the cuts in food stamps among working families forced to live in expensive (publicly subsidized) welfare hotels, the state has contradictory policies that activists can exploit.

For example, in New Jersey, the Elizabeth Coalition for the Homeless responded to the city's disallowing shelter benefits on the grounds that the homeless people were not residents of the city—a ruling known to be unconstitutional. They combined a legal class-action suit with rallies and demonstrations to put the city on the defensive.

Fourth, these campaigns don't change the world, but they combine immediate concerns for the poor with political lessons, using tactics whose very militancy speaks volumes about the right of people to act on their own behalf. This is important, standing in clear distinction to the negotiated pluralism of too much activity around housing and development.

In most cities, the 1980s have been the Decade of the Developer as much as the Age of Reagan. The Donald Trumps who dot our urban landscape are revered like movie stars. The esteem for deal-cutting and the allure of mega-gentrification by one or two men has provoked an abysmal lack of militant response by activists. Stepping in to provide a facade of pluralism, liberal politicians have sought deals with the real estate moguls, for every 100 luxury units, 10 subsidized; for each major project leading to massive displacement, community "pocket park."

These deals occur as if there were no inherent conflict of interest at work in our cities, just problems to negotiate in terms of "fairness." This reliance has done very little to build either consciousness or housing. It is part of an overall political problem faced by many activist organizations: a lack of political self-sufficiency bred by economic reliance on outside funding agents. Some of this is inevitable given their service demands, but groups must work to limit that dependency.

Service and militancy, legal advocacy and long-term housing, jobs campaigns: the combination of short-term immediate help for the destitute and longer-term campaigns that tie the needs of the homeless to larger social issues is the necessary organizational mix to keep homeless activists connected in a clear political vision for widespread social change.

The "employers' offensive" is not only about cost-cutting, capital flight and anti-unionism. It is about human lives. Many of those lives are being destroyed not by the quick kill, but through a seemingly inexorable process of job loss, welfare cuts, malnourishment and eviction. "Quick kills"—be they police brutality or a plant closing—incite militant, rapid responses. Hunger and homelessness do not at first. But utilizing the lessons learned from the homelessness movement so far, we too, can play a valuable role in fighting back. Helping the destitute, when done with a political vision, helps us all in the long run.

Reprinted from 11th Hour, Midwest Housing Newsletter; originally printed in Against the Current.

Support Your Tenants Union

The San Francisco Tenants Union is a volunteer based organization supported almost totally by our members. It is not inexpensive to operate an organization which provides a voice for tenants throughout the city and supports individual tenants in their battles with their landlords, and we can always use more help from our members. There are many ways you can help out the TU:

First of all, you can send us your donations! We know you've had to shell out your hard earned dollars to become members in the first place and we certainly do appreciate it! But your extra donations can help us with our newsletter costs, revising our handbook, conducting Eviction Watch 89...

Second, you can encourage your friends, neighbors and associates to become members. You can use the coupon in this newsletter or call 282-6622 for further information.

Third, you can volunteer your time at our office. Your help is needed in the following areas: Community Outreach, Data Entry, Fundraising, Organizing, Legislative Work, Newsletter and Tenant Counseling. We are particularly short of counselors at this time, which means that our doors are shut and there's no one to answer the phone during many of our counseling shifts. We are having a four session counselor training workshop coming up soon. Anyone interested in counseling or other volunteer work should call 282-6622 and leave your name and phone number.

Fourth, you can donate money specifically to the SFTU's efforts to pass a Vacancy Rent Control amendment to the Rent Ordinance this year. We lost Prop U in November, but helped elect some pro-tenant Supervisors and succeeded in elevating awareness on the issue throughout the city. The real estate agents are already busy and already rich; we, too, are already busy, but quite poor.

So, please be generous—either with your time or money. Make your donations to the SFTU or to the SFTU Vacancy Control efforts. Encourage your friends and neighbors to join, and *please* volunteer your time and get involved in *your* Tenants Union!



character, but by an economic system that has the structural capability to provide housing but will not because of the threat to profitability such public provision would entail.

Equally important, its social character means that homelessness will be maintained not simply through economics but through ideological debate as well. Analysts and journalists must have a justification and it must be located within the homeless themselves.

We have to be clear on the economic and social character of this struggle, without losing sight of the people suffering. The danger in ignoring this twofold reality has been exposed recently in the now famous Billie Boggs case. New York City passed a law requiring all people to seek shelter in the winter for their own good. Anyone refusing shelter when the cold became life-threatening would be involuntarily incarcerated in a mental institution.

Fighting to keep Ms. Boggs from forced institutionalization, the American Civil Liberties Union correctly argued that Boggs should not be held against her will. What they failed to do was to extend the argument to the social level—she needed housing. The ACLU should have focused on Koch's deliberate decision not to build housing which has had a disastrous effect on people.

Many of the most dominant forms of activism surrounding the homeless impose serious limitations for socialist activists. Though some are little more than band-aids, some community empowerment programs for the homeless exist which contain a mix of activism, politics and long-term strategy, and we should try to be involved with them. (Empowerment: to provide services and activism for poor people in a manner that not only materially improves their conditions but shows them ways to act on those conditions as well.)

By carefully mixing blend of concrete services (shelter, advocacy for food stamps, etc.) within a

JOIN THE SFTU

If you wish to join the TU, please fill out the form below and mail it in with a check or money order to the SFTU at 558 Capp Street, S.F., CA, 94110. When we receive your application, we'll send you the members-only phone number and our Handbook.

☐ New ☐ Renewal

Name _____

Address _____

Phone (H) _____
(W) _____

Zip Code _____

Landlord's Name _____

Units in Bldg. _____

Bedrooms in Unit _____

Current Rent _____

- ☐ \$20 Low Income
- ☐ \$30 Regular
- ☐ \$40 Household
- ☐ \$60 Sustaining

I'd like to volunteer also:

- ☐ Tenant Counseling
- ☐ Newsletter
- ☐ Legislative Committee
- ☐ Organizing
- ☐ Fundraising
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- ☐ Other

All members receive Tenant Rights Handbook and regular newsletter.

Need help? Come to the Tenants Union's *Walk-in Clinic*, which is now also open on Saturdays and evenings—typically Mon-Thur for those who work during the day (when it's also open). Call 282-6622 to verify current hours. Even better: become a Member, get the Handbook and call in your question on the *Members Only Hotline*. More info: 282-6622, or use membership coupon in this issue.

KIDS AIDS ADS

—by Michael S. Bell

There is an art contest around now for people ages 11 to 18 to design a billboard that conveys a message on AIDS. Prizes of \$25, \$50, \$100 and \$250 will be awarded on February 17th to the best entries, and the Grand Prize consists of having the image featured on 12 billboards in The City.

This is one of those complicated projects with a strong positive educational message aimed at youth who may not really understand that they are as much at risk as anyone else if they fail to practice safe sex. There are not yet many cases of youthful AIDS sufferers, but indications are that this number is likely to increase. At this point in time there are no special facilities to handle a problem like this. So, a huge group of concerned people have gotten together to sponsor this contest as a way of dealing with part of the solution.

Those involved include Gannett Outdoor, Junior League of San Francisco, AIDS Education for Youth Project, San Francisco Arts Commission/Neighborhood Arts Program, AIDS Clearing House, Diamond Street Youth Center, Huckleberry House, Larkin Street Youth Center, Youth Guidance Center, Balboa Teen Clinic, Teenage Pregnancy and Parenting Project, St. Anne's Youth Shelter, Canon Kip Community Center, Dropout Recovery Program, Real Alternatives Program, Walden House Adolescent Program, Omega Boys' Club, ACCEPT Program,

Central City Hospitality House, Operation Contact, San Francisco Department of Public Health and San Francisco Unified School District.

That, my friends, is a very long list of people, but they all deserve recognition for taking part in such an important community effort. The whole thing is being coordinated by the Youth AIDS Art Project (YAAP), the contact person for which is Holly Calica who can be reached at 566-3748.

December 1st is WORLD AIDS DAY

and this contest is aimed partly at raising the awareness level amongst homeless and runaway street kids that they are in dangerous territory. As a consequence, however, any person who has sex with someone in this particular risk group needs to be aware of the potential hazards. The problem is growing for the street kids because there is not sufficient information available to them, hence the need to do billboards that will hopefully reach more numbers. The idea is to *spread the word, not the disease* according to YAAP.

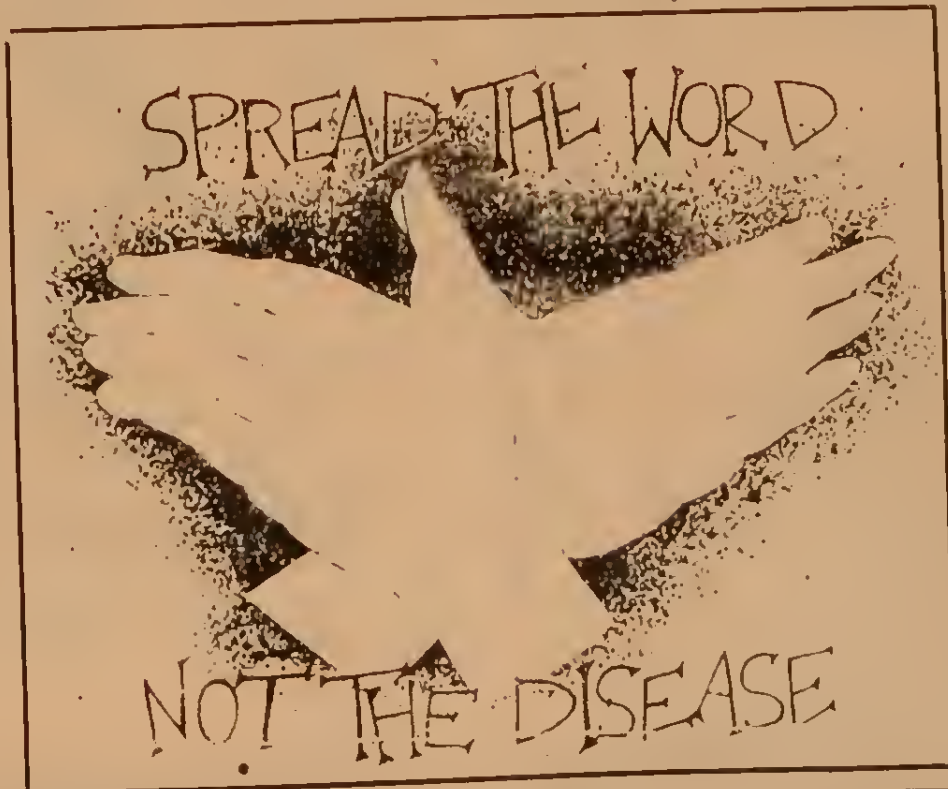
The contest winners and participants will have their work shown at the Mission

Cultural Center (2868 Mission Street) after being judged by Juan Pablo Gutierrez, Edgardo Rodriguez (from WEDGE Project), Mauricio Aviles, Ray Villareal (from Gannett Outdoor), Tom Peters (from SFDPH), Chris Nanez (from SFUSD), Ramon Cortines (from SFUSD) and Khaki (from the Junior League) among others.

Not enough people, unbelievable as it may seem, have yet grasped that this epidemic touches the lives of *all* the people in this fair and sanctimonious land. The BLUE LIGHT PROJECT has not yet been embraced by sufficient numbers though it is a great idea that is sure to grow (just put a blue light in your window until a cure for AIDS is found, that is all there is to it).

AIDS has brutally and savagely taken from us people from every walk of life and age group. YAAP is calling attention to the teeny boppers, especially to those who are not in school (but ought be damn it!), the street kids who may be safer away from their abusive homes but are at tremendous risk satisfying their hormonal urges with others out there whose personal habits need improvement.

We will fight this demonic disease, and we will overwhelm it eventually. This art project will go a long way toward helping get word out to stay aware and awake in the old clutch. We owe a debt of thanks to all the groups and individuals who helped bring this together. If you are in the age group 11 to 18, and if you have any questions or concerns about AIDS or any other sexually transmitted disease (STD), please get in touch with YAAP



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FRI	FEB 03	D.J. DANCING w/ DOC MARTIN	9:00	FREE
SAT	FEB 04	DANCE AT THE ATOMIC CAFE w/ O.J. MINK	9:00	FREE
SUN	FEB 05	D.J.'s DOC MARTIN & BLACKSTONE	9:00	FREE
MON	FEB 06	REGGAE ROOTS CULTURE w/ CORBETT H. BOWERS I	9:00	FREE
TUE	FEB 07	"TIME ZONE" CLUB w/ D.J. DOC MARTIN	9:00	FREE
WED	FEB 08	REGGAE CALENDAR INTERNATIONAL DANCE PARTY	9:00	FREE
THU	FEB 09	POST MODERN SOCIAL RELEVANCE MIX w/ D.J. MINK	9:00	FREE
FRI	FEB 10	D.J. DANCING w/ DOC MARTIN	9:00	FREE
SAT	FEB 11	DANCE AT THE ATOMIC CAFE w/ D.J. MINK	9:00	FREE
SUN	FEB 12	D.J.'s DOC MARTIN & BLACKSTONE	9:00	FREE
MON	FEB 13	REGGAE ROOTS CULTURE w/ CORBETT H. BOWERS I	9:00	FREE
TUE	FEB 14	"TIME ZONE" CLUB w/ D.J. DOC MARTIN	9:00	FREE
WED	FEB 15	REGGAE CALENDAR INTERNATIONAL DANCE PARTY	9:00	FREE
THU	FEB 16	POST MODERN SOCIAL RELEVANCE MIX w/ D.J. MINK	9:00	FREE
FRI	FEB 17	D.J. DANCING w/ DOC MARTIN	9:00	FREE
SAT	FEB 18	DANCE AT THE ATOMIC CAFE w/ D.J. MINK	9:00	FREE
SUN	FEB 19	D.J.'s DOC MARTIN & BLACKSTONE	9:00	FREE
MON	FEB 20	REGGAE ROOTS CULTURE w/ CORBETT H. BOWERS I	9:00	FREE
TUE	FEB 21	"TIME ZONE" CLUB w/ D.J. DOC MARTIN	9:00	FREE
WED	FEB 22	REGGAE CALENDAR INTERNATIONAL DANCE PARTY	9:00	FREE
THU	FEB 23	POST MODERN FASHION SHOW BY GAIA & MUSIC BY MINK	9:00	FREE
FRI	FEB 24	D.J. DANCING w/ DOC MARTIN	9:00	FREE
SAT	FEB 25	DANCE AT THE ATOMIC CAFE w/ D.J. MINK	9:00	FREE
SUN	FEB 26	D.J.'s DOC MARTIN & BLACKSTONE	9:00	FREE
MON	FEB 27	REGGAE ROOTS CULTURE w/ CORBETT H. BOWERS I	9:00	FREE
TUE	FEB 28	"TIME ZONE" CLUB w/ D.J. DOC MARTIN	9:00	FREE

CALENDAR OF EVENTS
FEBRUARY

THURSDAY, FEB. 2
Choreography by Cheryl Chaddick at Footworks, starring dancers trained by... Chaddick! \$8, 8:30 pm, 3221 22nd St., 824-5044. Also Friday and Saturday.

SATURDAY, FEB. 4
Komotion Pictures presents Sue Coe's *Painted Landscape of the Times & Leon Golub* followed by *Bana Witt & Blue Vulva Underground* (8 angry tits with a sense of humor and loud instruments). 8:30 pm, 2779 16th at Folsom.

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MONDAY, FEB. 6
Body Pulse Aerobics, to keep you in tune with Monday. Mission Community Center, 2450 Harrison, \$5.50 per class (\$40 for 10). 5:15 to 7:15 pm (gasp).

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 8
Chris Coon & Band in Komotion's *New & Interesting Music Series*. 8 pm, 2779 16th & Folsom.

Crisis of Perception, or Why Are the real issues of our time excluded from the political dialogue? Fritjof Capra (*Tao of Physics*) tells why, sponsored by SF Greens. 7:30-9:30, New College, 777 Valencia, \$3-\$10 donation; Childcare. 255-2940.

THURSDAY, FEB. 9
Detroit Autoworker Richard Feldman discusses his *End of the Line: Autoworkers and the American Dream*, or end thereof. 7:30 pm, Modern Times, 968 Valencia, Free.

FRIDAY, FEB. 10
Chicanu/Mexicano Voices: specifically, Lucha Corpi (*Delia's Song*), Jose Antonio Burciaga (*Weedee Peepo*) and Barbara Brinson-Curiel (*Speak To Me From Dreams*) show 3 different forms (novel, essay, poetry) in this publication party/reading. 8 pm, Modern Times, 968 Valencia. 282-9246. Free.

SATURDAY, FEB. 11
Malo Valentine's Day Special Sure it's 3 days early, but you'll want to spend the 14th alone with your raison d'etre. 9 pm - 1 am, Bajones, 1062 Valencia.

WOMAN, Inc. Benefit Dance for their Lesbian Services Program features non-alcoholic bar, free munchies, a DJ (not for consumption) and raffle tickets. 9 pm-1 am, Women's Building, 3543 18th St. \$7-10 at door.

Socialism & Perestroika: Impact of Soviet Reforms is Workers World Party's public forum at the Women's Building. 7:30 pm, 3543 18th St., 826-4828.

Kembra Pfahler & Somoa appear, probably with film and live rock performance, or maybe not. Go and let us know, ok? 8:30 pm, ATA, 992 Valencia, \$5. 824-3890

SUNDAY, FEB. 12
Fruit of the Womb II is an erotic Valentine; Stephanic Henderson's lesbian erotica, with side servings of candlelight, and fruit. \$4-7, 7 pm, Modern Times, 968 Valencia.

Dance Current performs 6 works by Robin Greenberg in this modern dance concert. 8:30 pm, Footwork, 3221 22nd Street, \$6. Call 824-5044.

MONDAY, FEB. 13
Support Group for older gay men (60+) at Operation Concern, 1853 Market. Sponsored by Gay and Lesbian Outreach to Elders (GLOE). 7-9 pm. Call 626-7000.

TUESDAY, FEB. 14
Valentine Heart of Mystery with author Sarah Shulman and her stories of the women of New York's Lower East Side (*Sophie Horowitz Story, Girls, Visions and Everything*). 7:30 pm, Modern Times, 968 Valencia. 282-9246. Free.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 15

Green Politics and Greenhouse Effect is William Prescott's talk for by SF Greens. Prescott comes our way via the Climate Protection Institute and Planet Earth Foundation. 7:30-9:30 pm, New College, 777 Valencia, \$3-10; childcare. 255-2940.

Legal Clinic for Lesbian and Gay Seniors by appointment only. Free. Sponsored by Operation Concern (not the Dallas Judiciary). Call 626-7000.

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5	6	7	8
9 Marga Gomez Monica Palacios	10 Crosscut	11 dj Elton Brown	12 dj Peggy Key
13	14	15	16
17 Marilyn Pittman Greg Proops Ed Crasnick	18 Ron Hacker and the Hackaws	19 dj Carlos Grant	20 dj Tom Wright
21	22	23	24
25 Diane Amos Sandy Van Josh Kornbluth	26 Lisa Kindred & Friends	27 dj Peggy Key	28 dj Carlos Grant

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THURSDAY, FEB. 16

Enelia Paz Gomez reads from *Black In Columbia*, the autobiographical story of her childhood in a small Negro community in South Columbia. 7:30 pm, Old Wives Tales, 1009 Valencia. Also 2/22 at *Modern Times*, 7:30 pm.

FRIDAY, FEB. 17

Cuentos de Alfonso Hernandez, Salvadoran guerrilla/poet beheaded by the military last November, has his belated premiere of *Dialogo do las Germinaciones*. Co-sponsored by CODICES. 8 pm, Modern Times, 968 Valencia. 282-9246.

SATURDAY, FEB. 18

Berlin IMF Video Project Benefit, probably to raise money for a documentary on the International Monetary Fund riot last summer. *World Entertainment War* and *Polymorphia* perform. 9 pm, 2779 16th & Folsom.

Kids: Even more challenging than Pac-Man is *checkers*, a thinking game in only 2 colors. Sign up for citywide Youth Tournament at your local rec center; action starts today at 11, Chinese Recreation Center, Washington and Mason. Call 558-4470.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 22

Komotion Koffeehouse Kid's Night, featuring children's art and performances. 8 pm, 2779 16th & Folsom. Free.

THURSDAY, FEB. 23

If you've got \$1500, invite 9 friends to the Celebrity Waiter Luncheon for school sports. Or drop \$100 and go alone. For more information or a menu, call 392-4880.

FRIDAY, FEB. 24

Dancers from Down Under combine classical and post-modern choreography Aussie style. Catch Russell Dumas and group (Dance Exchange) before they go on to New York and Amsterdam. 8:30 pm, Theatre Artaud, 450 Florida. \$6. Also Saturday.

Freedom Song Network benefit with Marion Wade, Faith Petric, and Janny MacHarg's rebel songs about work, women's lives, growing older, and hope. These women have been performing longer than the *Dead!* Check this one out. 8 pm, Artemis Cafe, 1199 Valencia, \$4-\$7. Call 431-7980.

Amigo Fiesta with one particular friend on hand, Supervisor Jim Gonzalez. Hors d'oeuvres, refreshments, all for a mere \$5 to help Centro Latino. 4:30, 1656 15th St.

SATURDAY, FEB. 25

During an earthquake, the building moves, too or Dances for Bldg. T952, choreographed especially for this same gymnasium at Fort Barry. Performed by the Zaccho Dance Theatre. 1 pm, Fort Barry, Marin, \$6. Call 647-6520. Also Sunday.

Other Cinema screens two by Frederick Wiseman, *Primate* and *Chimp Language*. 8:30 pm, 992 Valencia, \$4. Call 824-3890.

A Sacrifice, which is a staged reading which explores the elasticity of time (e.g., "It's not 5 o'clock yet?"). 8 pm, The Folcrom, 2150 Folsom. Free.

SUNDAY, FEB. 26

Downwind/Downstream screening; a documentary on the effects of mining, acid rain and urban development in the Rocky Mountains, with special appearance by the director, Toby McLeod. Also showing: *Four Corners: A National Sacrifice Area?* Noon, Roxie Cinema, 3117 - 16th, \$5.

Buena Vista Alternative School Dance Benefit annual fundraiser. 8 pm, Cesar's Latin Palace, 3140 Mission. \$5.

ONGOING

Bay Area Theatre Sports 4th Tournament Mon. and Wed. (except Feb. 29) this month, with 8 teams drawn from the theater and comedy community. Improv... comedy... jocks, a Trinity which speaks for itself, following audience suggestion. 8 pm, \$5 for playoffs and semi-finals, \$8 for finals (Feb. 27). Call 824-8220.

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest plays at Potrero Hill Theatre Ensemble. Fridays and Saturdays Feb. 3 - Feb. 25. 8 pm, 953 De Haro St., \$6. Call 465-2823.

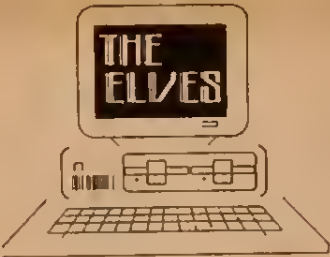
Creativity Explored Exhibit featuring works from this arts center for disabled adults. Opens Wed. Feb. 8 from 5:30 - 7:30; runs through March 1, Monday - Friday from 9 am - 5 pm or by appointment. Phoenix Inn, 601 Eddy St. (Larkin). 776-1380.

Designer Genes in two tales of breeding among our upwardly mobile: *The Night of Hearts* by Jerry Ackerman, about life and death on a fur farm, and the *Egg Keeper* by Mary McGuire, about a surrogate mother. 8 pm, Fri - Sat 8 pm Through Feb. 11. Phoenix Theatre, 301 8th Street. \$12, \$10 seniors & students. Call 621-4423.

Brightness by acclaimed African director Souleyman Cisse, premiers at the York Through Feb. 9. It's an archetypal myth of initiation: a young man's trek to find his uncle who can teach him the secret powers of the Bambara tribe. 7:15 and 9:15 with weekend matinees 1:15, 3:15, 5:15. \$5 but first 2 weekend shows are \$4. Seniors \$3, children \$2. Red Vic cards A-OK. 2789 24th.



Dybbuk: Traveling Jewish Theatre's English version of classic Yiddish play. Opens Feb. 3, with gala reception after Feb. 4 show. 8:30 pm Thurs-Sat., 2:30 and 7:30 pm Sunday. New Performance Gallery, 3153 17th St., 863-9834. Thursday and Sunday night \$10; Sunday matinee \$8; Friday and Saturday \$14.



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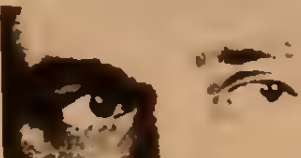
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PROJECT 20: THE PARKING TICKET SOLUTION

—by Pat Fahey

Situation: You owe hundreds, maybe thousands of dollars in parking tickets. Your small family barely gets by month to month, or you are a student, or you are unemployed, and/or any combination of the above. If you don't pay off your parking tickets, you can't register your car. If you don't register your car, it becomes imminently towable by the SFPD. All the while, The Chronicle and City Hall are blaming you for hurting The City's economy and its deficit for not paying your tickets. Besides suicide, becoming a crack dealer or moving to New Zealand, what recourse do you have?

Project 20, of course. That is, community service.

Project 20 was the brainchild of Moscone Era community arts activists who saw the handwriting on the wall during the ushering in of Proposition 13. It was a way that they saw to counteract the ensuing budget cuts for community arts in San Francisco. Staff cuts could be replaced by volunteers emanating from Bryant Street in an environment of the Perpetual Parkers' Purgatory which IS and HAS ALWAYS BEEN San Francisco. The injustice of the parking situation had no solution, the theory went, but perhaps City Hall could throw a bone to the arts community, sort of water-down the injustice while, at the same time, creating an army of free labor. Besides, it would reduce the jail population, and forestall society's return to a form of debtors' prison, and wasn't that what The Revolution was all about?

A good idea became a badly needed idea, perhaps a great idea, but for reasons which far exceed those that brought Project 20 about in the first place. Project 20 today includes participants involved in fines arising from petty crimes as well as moving and non-moving violations. The rise of non-profit organizations became a trademark of San Francisco's social economy. Health, labor, refugee, tenants' rights, special and general education and countless other organizations came to understand the myriad benefits of 501.c3 tax status. At first, tax-exempt, non-profit status was easily attainable. Alas, by the early 80's, the window of opportunity closed and such facility ground quickly to a halt. The scars and wounds left by Prop. 13 have never healed and, indeed, fester unabated. Prop. 13 was, after all, the trial balloon for Reagan's eventual tax-cut popularity.

Unquestionably, the very existence of San Francisco's diversity and complexity

of community-based organization owes itself to no single greater factor than Project 20 and its free, amicable labor force.

When a San Francisco resident goes to court for petty crimes, or for traffic violations, they are given a series of options: 1) they may pay the fine or fines outright, 2) they may defer payments on a monthly schedule, OR 3) they may opt for performing community service, which means they may work off the fines at \$5.00 per hour. If they choose this option, the court issues them paperwork which is to be taken to room 220, next door to the court. There, they sign in and wait until a Project 20 staff person interviews them and chooses an organization for whom they

thankless task, even though so many people and organizations benefit from Project 20. The job has become very hard. I would just like to have someone appreciate what I do," said Ms. Wanda Coleman-Stell sadly. "They (City Hall, and probably the SFPD) tried to eliminate Project 20 last June (1988), but so many community organizations squawked, particularly the AIDS Foundation, that they had to continue the program. It would be a shame if they did, but I'm too tired to fight and, besides, no one seems to appreciate what we do here."

After listening to Ms. Coleman-Stell, I decided to inquire to some 20 organizations to find out if such appreciation did, in

countless other things. It frees up my limited staff for other essential things I need to maintain the center."

Community Thrift Store, Mary—Assistant Manager: "Project 20 has given us a lot of good, hard working and friendly workers. We run everything on a skeleton staff, I don't know what we'd do without them. They do all the things we can't do. Pricing, maintenance, cash register and so on. It really has helped the Community Thrift Store."

Magic Theatre, Barbie Stein—company manager: "Project 20 people have been a wonderful addition. Theatre always runs on a shoestring budget. These Project 20 workers free us up to do other important things. They do a great job! We would be at a loss without them. It's a great service to the S.F. community. I'm from the east coast, and I never heard of this in New York. I thought, 'Wow, this could only happen in San Francisco.'"

The AIDS Foundation, Dr. Morgan C., lab analyst: "There is no question that AIDS research has benefitted from Project 20. No amount of funding in the world will make up the difference for what it really takes, and the workers we have gotten have always been hard working and dependable. It is a great service to the San Francisco community. Please thank those responsible for me personally."

If your organization would like to support the continued existence of Project 20, you can do so by sending a letter of thanks and appreciation to: Wanda F. Coleman-Stell, Adult Probation Department, 880 Bryant Street #200, San Francisco 94103, Arlene M. Saucer (same address), Carl Shorter (also same address) and to Mayor Agnos, City Hall, San Francisco, 94102.



feel they can work based on their skills or the needs of the organization. They are given a date by which to complete the hours assigned by the court, which is recorded by the Project 20 staff person. A schedule is worked out when the individual reports to the designated workplace. Upon completion of the hours, they return the paperwork to the Project 20 office 24 hours before the next court date. If a person needs more time to finish the work they may go to the assigned court date. Usually the judge willingly permits more time to complete the work. Though somewhat time-consuming, once the paperwork is in to the Project 20 office, the individual has worked off hundreds, maybe thousands of dollars in fines, the organization is better off, what the hell—you meet some interesting people.

More recent times have ushered in harder times, however, as Project 20 staff has been cut in half, hours have been cut and the city no longer has any incentive to continue the program. "The job has become a

deed share a common thread: appreciation for Project 20.

Canon Kip Community Center, Director Gayle Justice: "Project 20 has given us staff capability without which I don't know what we'd do. The assigned work includes receptionists, maintenance, tutors in math and reading for the school children and

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MISSION: COMPUTE

first bits of '89

by Jennie E. Rodríguez

TRADE SHOWS

San Francisco begins 1989 in a high-tech note: The Mac Expo. And, although Macs may not be everyone's cup of tea, specially to those of us, who for obvious reasons (economy, open architecture, and compatibility to name just a few) have chosen to work with other systems with the same end results, must recognize the trade show as a good place to be.

The 2-day expo (January 20-22), considered to be one of the biggest, most varied trade shows of its kind, showcased approximately 500 major national and international vendors, and hosted thousands of attendees. Here, as in any show of this magnitude, the general public had the opportunity to see the latest systems hardware, applications software, communications products, and peripherals operating in a real-world environment.

An integral part of the event were also the tutorial presentations, marketing & industry-oriented conferences, technical sessions and workshops, all geared to address current user problems and possible solutions, as well as to preview emerging technologies and the industry's next era.

Needless to say, these information-sharing, and activity packed events serve to boost the computer market, reaffirm the city as a leader and trend setter in the hi-tech industry, and, better yet, allow us mortals to get a one-stop taste of things to come, in a non-threatening, demystified environment.

These reasons might seem compelling enough to attend events such as these, whether you have a computer related business, as an individual, spend some or a significant part of your time tied up to computers, or whether you are just learning the ropes.

Since the beginning of the year seems to be the perfect time for new resolutions, it's the right time for us "technology consumers" to adopt a more serious, inquisitive attitude; what's the status of today's technology, how do we picture ourselves in it, and how can we benefit from it? It pays to be an informed consumer, one who values new and better solutions, increased efficiency, and tools that can repay your investment many times over!

COMPUTER LEARNING CENTER FOR THE POOR

This center, located in the heart of San Francisco's Tenderloin District, and scheduled to begin operations in January, was made possible by a \$100,000 grant from approximately 10 firms, and will be run by Glide Memorial Church.

Courses will include reading, writing, math, language, and basic problem solving techniques. New courses in desktop publishing, graphics and programming will be added during the year.

The program intends to service senior citizens, jobless, children and those who cannot afford or have access to a computer.

The project, innovative and conscientious in its essence, intends to afford the underprivileged segment of our society the necessary tools to achieve computer literacy, obtain employment, and to ultimately empower them through the technological opportunities available.

When will the Mission have a similar resource? The time is right!

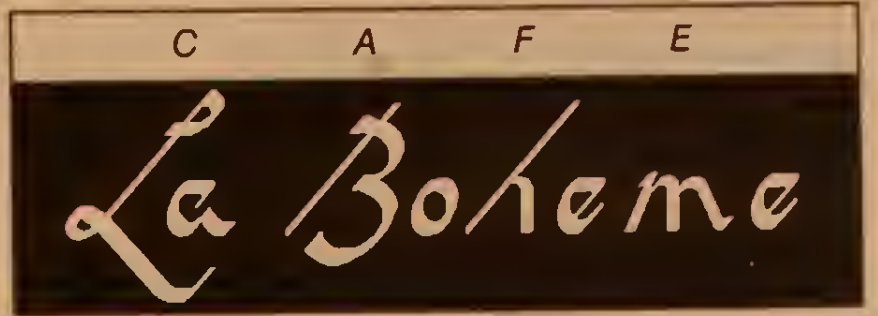
MORE REASONS TO ATTEND COMPUTER TRADE SHOWS

- Update your computer knowledge
- See the latest computer and communication products
- Meet vendors, face-to-face
- Attend conference sessions
- Meet industry leaders
- Build product literature file
- Interact with colleagues
- Compare new products
- See specific program demonstrations
- Improve your career
- Bring back new information to company
- Make industry contacts
- Plan new-purchase budgets
- Evaluate candidates for acquisition
- Find new or additional sources
- Try products, hands-on
- Meet international attendees
- Compare delivery commitments
- Get answers from industry experts
- Arrange special terms
- Improve relationships with vendors
- Evaluate show for future exhibit participation
- Compare show with others
- Take part in your industry's future

COMING SHOW

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La

- by Betsy Randolph



Welcome to February. It's Black History Month! Come celebrate at Old Wives' Tales Women's Books, where four readings this month focus on Women of color. All readings (except one) are on Thursday evenings at 7:30 PM at 1009 Valencia.

On Feb. 2 Margaret Preseod reads from her book *Black Women: Bringing It All Back Home* (donation). Author and storyteller Louisa Teish will read from *Jambalaya* on Monday, February 6 (\$4-7 donation). On February 16, Enclia Paz Gomez reads from her autobiography *Black in Colombia* (donation). And UC-Santa Cruz Professor of Women's Studies Gloria T. Hull reads from her new book of poetry, *Healing Heart* on February 23 (\$3-5 donation). The Artemis Society Cafe has done it again — another year in business! Friends new and old are invited to

celebrate the 12th Anniversary/Valentine's Day party on Saturday, February 11 from 9 PM on. There will be D.J. dancing and a no-host bar. Formal attire is optional. The Cafe is located on 1199 Valencia.

Meanwhile over at the Women's Building (on 18th Street between Guerrero and Valencia) WOMAN, INC. will be staging a "Women's Dance" to benefit that organization's Lesbian Services Program on February 11th. WOMAN, INC. (Women Organized to Make Abuse Non-existent, Inc.) is a battered women's agency on 16th Street.

Renowned D.J. "Timberwolf" will spin the discs at the dance, which will be held from 9 PM to 1 AM. There will be free munchies and a cash bar, although this is an alcohol-and-drug-free event. Also, tickets for a raffle (great prizes) will be available. Admission to the dance will be on a



sliding scale (\$7-10).

Dancing is only one way to support WOMAN, INC. You can "help battered women help themselves" by becoming a volunteer. WOMAN, Inc. offers a 24-hour crisis line, options counseling, legal clinics, a walk-in center and support groups for heterosexual and lesbian women. Learn crisis intervention and counseling skills at the training session, which begins Feb. 21 and continues on Feb. 25 and 26. Women with daytime availability and bilingual women are especially needed. If you are interested, call Jeanie at 864-4777.

Any lingering New Years' Resolutions? It looks like February might be the month to bring them out and get involved with women's organizations in your community. LA CASA DE LAS MADRES, a battered women's shelter founded in 1976 in the Mission, also needs volunteers for all areas of the agency: a 24-hour hotline, children's program, direct advocacy and job and counseling services.

The next training session begins on February 13 from 6:30 to 9:30 PM at 965 Mission Street, Suite 218. This orientation, plus sessions on five consecutive Monday evenings, will train volunteers in facilitating support groups for battered women, public speaking, and fundraising. There will be a special training program on three Tuesday evenings for the children's program. Women of color, bilingual women, survivors of violence and lesbian women are all encouraged to apply. Those interested may call Bemita at 777-1808.

Do you know of a great upcoming event or program that all women should know about? Can you think of some individual woman in the Mission hiding her under light under a bushel who deserves the spotlight? Let me know — this column is an open space for you! Send ideas c/o: Victor Miller, North Mission Association, 3004 16th Street, SF 94103 or leave a message for Betsy at 552-5981. Happy Valentine's Day!

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ACUPUNCTURE, AIDS and HERBS

- by Dr. Misha Cohen

ACUPUNCTURE ASSOCIATION SPONSORS MAJOR CONFERENCE ON IMMUNITY

The California Acupuncture Association is sponsoring an important conference on immunity in March. The Conference, EXPO '89: An Integrated Approach to Immunity, is a vanguard meeting in the acupuncture field. It is the first time that the statewide acupuncture organization has held a conference devoted to this topic.

According to the preliminary literature, a wide variety of topics will be discussed as the theme is "An Integrated Approach to Immunity". Workshops such as "Review of the Immune System", "Eastern Interpretation of Western Syndromes", "Epstein-Barr Virus", and "Psycho-immunotherapy" are planned.

EXPO '89 will also feature the Chinese Medicine Day Annual Dinner as its Saturday night entertainment.

The conference will be held at the St.

Francis Hotel in San Francisco on March 11 and 12. There are discounted fees for students. For more information, please contact the CAA at (213) 390-7911.

CHINESE HERBAL TREATMENT PROGRAM FOR HIV EXPANDS

The Quan Yin Healing Arts Center, a non-profit educational and research organization, is sponsoring a Chinese Herbal Treatment Program for HIV Seropositive Persons. Currently, there are 123 men and women enrolled in this program. The participants receive a deeply discounted rate on herbal products in exchange for the use by the program of data for research. On March 15, an additional 100 people may be enrolled in the program. If you would like to enroll in the Chinese Herbal Treatment Program for HIV Seropositive Persons, please call the Quan-Yin Herbal Treatment Program at 861-4963.

SAN FRANCISCO AIDS ALTERNATIVE HEALING PROJECT BEGINS NEW PROGRAMS

The San Francisco AIDS Alternative Healing Project begins its fourth year of existence in April. The Project will also be changing the format of its new Comprehensive Programs to better meet the needs and finances of people diagnosed with AIDS/ARC or who are HIV Seropositive.

The SFAAHP is now sponsoring twelve-week intensive programs and twelve-week follow-up programs. The first twelve-week program will begin April 1. The Comprehensive Program includes acupuncture, herbal consultation, hypnotherapy, psychotherapy, support group, chiropractic, massage, nutritional counseling and nutritional supplements for one low fee under one roof.

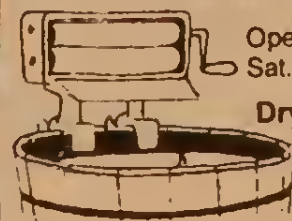
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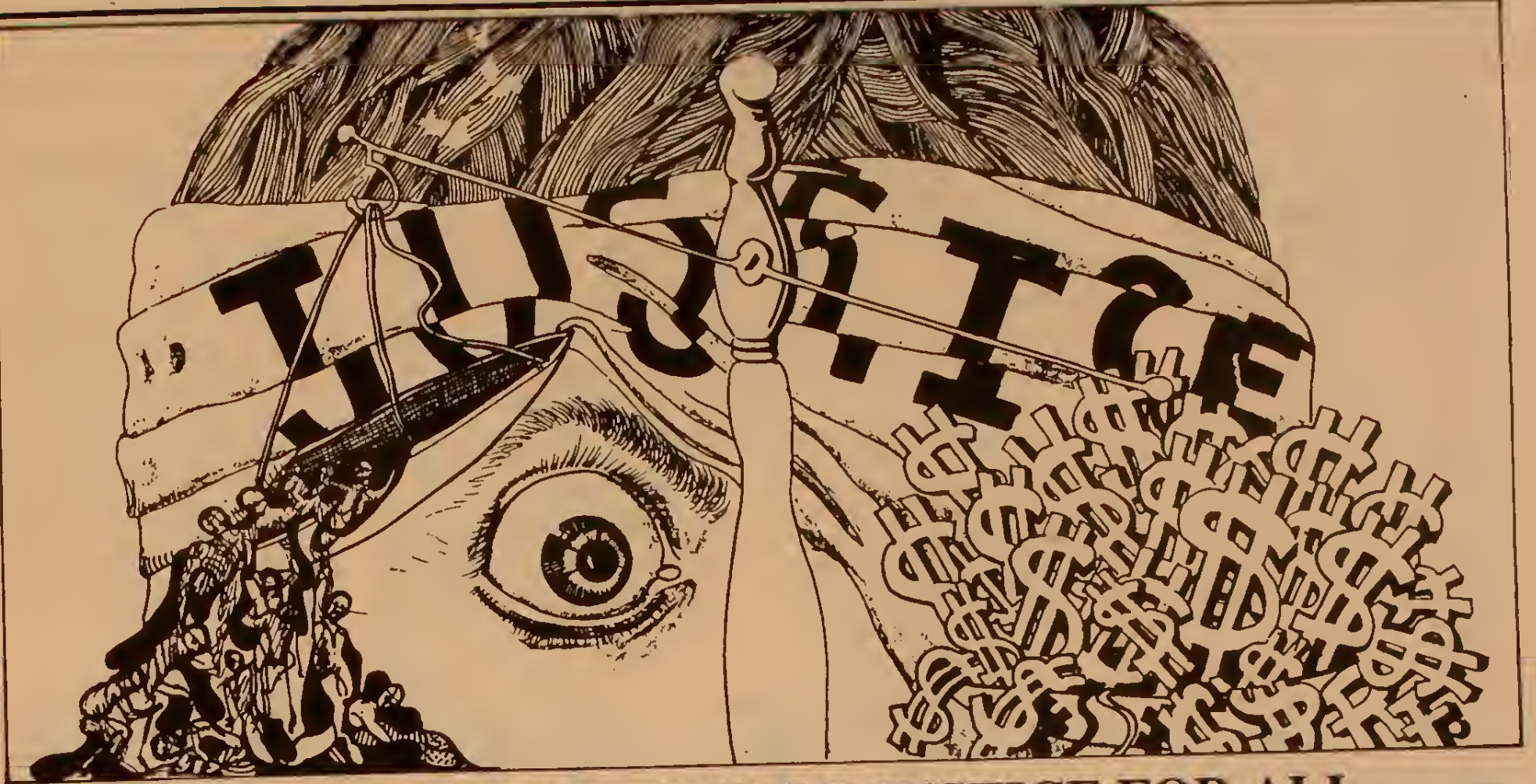


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CENTRO LEGAL EQUALS JUSTICE FOR ALL

by Pat Fahey

Budget cuts during the Reagan Years have not been kind to any sort of community-based organizations which serve low-moderate income people, least of all La Raza Centro Leghal (LRCL). Despite this, the Centro, located at the corner of 22nd & Mission, is surviving, even thriving, because of its commitment to solid legal practice and the community from which it arose.

The Centro "plays a vital role in providing legal service to the Bay Area's Latino Community", according to the Centro's brochure. Through its services, the Centro make it possible for low and moderate income households and individuals to gain access to the legal system who might otherwise be denied legal representation.

Ina Cumpiano, the director of the Centro's Lawyer Referral Service (LRS), outlined 11 branches of service which are offered: Immigration, Housing, Worker's Compensation, Personal Injury, Family Law, Employment Discrimination, business, Wills & Trusts, Criminal Law, Real Estate and General Practice (everything else). The LRS assists more than 3,000 clients per year by providing referrals to

members of their LRS attorney panels and to appropriate government and community agencies.

The legal center also administers a Direct Legal Services program. The Centro provides free legal representation to more than 500 low-income clients per year, primarily in the areas of immigration and landlord/tenant law. Furthermore, the Centro runs a program for senior citizens—the Senior Community Employment Services. In addition, the Centro provides space for two clinics, one on housing (Tuesdays, 4:30 PM) and immigration (every other Thursday . . . you need to call 415 826-5506 for this one). The clinics are conducted in Spanish or English.

As a legal center involved in community planning and development, La Raza Centro Legal is at the vanguard of a growing national trend. The La Raza Lawyer Referral Service was the first State Bar-certified LRS in the United States for the Spanish-speaking community. In 1984, the Centro launched its innovative pilot program, the Citizenship Outreach Project, to increase the naturalization rate among the Latino Community in the Bay Area. In 1986, the Centro Legal initiated the Pro Bono Project, recruiting private attorneys

to represent indigent clients without charge.

The list of services offered by the Centro Legal is as impressive as its track record for innovation and service delivery. The effort to maintain its services has, nonetheless, been hampered by the relentless budget cuts of the Reagan Era, underscored by Reagan's Final Budget, which not only cut monies (for what would have been the eighth consecutive year) from the Federally-funded Legal Services Corporation but **ELIMINATED IT ALTOGETHER**. This is the program which once prompted former 'Justice' Department head and long-time Reagan crony Edwin Meese to remark that "(Legal Services Corporation) is just another case of someone trying to get something for nothing, another free ride. If someone wants a lawyer, they ought to pay for it!"

The Centro's LRS Director, Ina Cumpiano, has a different story to tell. "C.D.B.G.'s (Community Development Block Grants) have always been part of what the number and scope of our programs depend, along with grants from The City, The Haas Foundation, The United Way, and any housing monies, wherever we could find them. Our

CDBG's have declined every year, and it has hurt us. Reagan changed the tax incentives in mid-stream (1984) so that now it is no longer profitable for foundations to exist. The tax incentives just aren't there anymore. We have had to eliminate any salary raises and cut staff, particularly our interviewer staff person. We are forced to turn to the community for volunteers who can commit six hours per week each. Our other recourse is to fan out and attract more middle-income clients. After all, we do offer legal services for ANYONE who needs them. Our largest client-groups, however, come from El Salvador and Guatemala."

As the image of Ronald Reagan passes through the bowels of the body politic and into the sewers of 'official' history littered with presidents past who supported repressive regimes to the south, the weakened state of social economies throughout countless americas give us pause to reflect on the damage done from which it may take generations to recover. Fortunately, through a combination of social responsibility, commitment and persistence, La Raza Centro Legal has been, and will continue to be, at the forefront of a healing process so sorely needed in our time.

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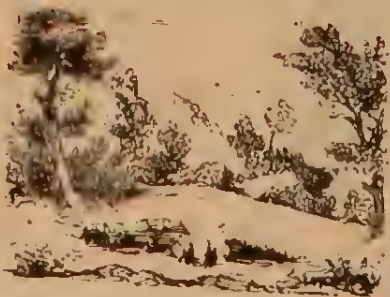
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CITY TO AXE LIVING LANDMARKS

The S.F. Landmarks Board will meet early this month to vote on a plan to chop down the olive groves across the street from the Civic Center. The Recreation and Park Department has already approved the plan and set a million dollar budget. This is the last chance to protest the destruction of 60 trees almost three decades old which shelter numerous homeless people.

"It's news to me," said Barbara Saum, Environmental Review Officer of the Planning Department, when asked whether the plan would require an environmental impact report. "Rec and Park is a flagrant violator" of environmental procedure, Saum said, promising to "look into it."

The city-approved arboricide seems to be news to just about everybody. "Where was the public review process?" asked tree advocate Isabel Wade, who helped establish the city's watchdog Tree Board. "People don't want trees cut down, especially with no plans to replace or transplant them."

Perhaps the Recreation and Park Department knew that the plan would be unpopular, for they never asked public permission to destroy what is, after all, public property. Rec and Park's unanimous decision to get rid of the trees rolled right over the vehement protests of homeless people's advocates from the Tenderloin Self Help Center, who arrived uninvited at the decisive meeting, according to the Tenderloin Times.

Protesters argue that the chainsaw mas-

sacre of the olive grove would destroy the only shelter of homeless people who sleep there. But, of course, that's just why the bureaucrats sheltered at City Hall want the trees to go. A PR flunky at Rec and Park described the space under the trees as "dark and forbidding", and said, "City gardeners can't get their work done" because of the dangerous characters lurking in the shadows. "And there ARE people SLEEPING in there," she said, as though that settled it.

This argument makes about as much sense as sealing up doorways because homeless people sleep in them or closing down soup kitchens because they attract the poor (a tactic this city, under past administration, has been known to practice). Just last month, Mayor Agnos was begging local churches to help him solve this city's

huge homelessness problem. Destroying the shelter of homeless people will not make them go away. On the contrary, they will become all the more visible — and irate.

Another argument of Rec and Park is that an overhaul of the trees' home (officially known as James Rolph Plaza) is necessary because the concrete there is starting to sink and crack. They want to demolish the fountain, uproot the trees and replace the whole thing with a "civic gathering area" made up of — guess what — more concrete. Much has been made of the addition of some grassy quadrants and "two small Beaux Arts fountains, following the original 1913 plan." But the current budget allotment of \$1 million will only allow for demolition of the fountain and trees, the placing of pavement, and work on

the cracking concrete.

No doubt the new "civic gathering area" will prove profitable as an urban fairground. It will also make fine parade grounds for the shock troops brought in to quell the Great Homeless Riots of 1989.

Demolition is scheduled to start in fall of 1989. It's not too late to take a walk through SF's last urban forest. Say hello to the pregnant women, unemployed men and AIDS sufferers sitting under the trees. Look up at the threatening sky through graceful boughs hung with leaves and fruit. Think about the olive branch as a symbol of peace and hope for humanity. Then fill out the coupon on this page and send it in. We will photocopy all coupons received and send them to City Hall. Trees can't save themselves — it's up to us to save them.

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This is the last time I'll be talking to you about Bill. I want to tell you something good about Badd.

First, though, let's admit that Bill was — as he wrote of himself — "not a nice man," at least not to anyone whom he perceived as even slightly slighting him. To Bill, nothing tasted sweeter than revenge, not even Triple Peach, and he was not above an occasional death threat. I wouldn't be surprised to receive one myself (along with an unasked-for subscription to *Soldier of Fortune*, a package of dried dobie turds and a dead fish sprinkled with cockroaches in a paper sack) for telling you that I always thought Bill was a badd artist, badd drinker and a badd writer most of the time. I thought he was an asshole for poaching. His memory was as perforated as his liver; he told the same stories over and over. Badd news. But if you ever saw him smile, *really* smile, showing those glorious yellow fangs to the moon while stars winked in his eyes...

But that isn't the good thing I wanted to tell you. I wanted to tell you about a benefit I had for Deadbeat Mag. in 1987 at the Firehouse 7. Bill wanted to read some badd poetry before the Sea Hags played, but Dave Whitaker deadbeat him to it. So, to make it up to Bill, I shared my drink tickets with him. After 3 or 4 Guinnesses each, it



was time for the second band to play. I won't tell you who they were, but they had recently lost their singer. As they were limping through their gruesomely mediocre set, emptying the club with remarkable sped, Bill looked down at me

and said, "Why don't you go up there and take over!"

"Naw, Bill, I couldn't do that. I can't sing." "So what? Just go up there and *do it!*"

We drifted to the foot of the stage, Bill still goading me to sing, me still demurring,

until with a beatific baddster grin he PICKED ME UP and dropped me on the stage!

The rest, of course, is rock n' roll history. I made an utter ass of myself. I thought they'd turned my mike off, because I couldn't hear myself, so I SCREAMED a bunch of made-up gibberish at the top of my phlegm-congested lungs, lurching around the stage like Frankenstein's monster, knocking over mikestands right and left.

When I was finally kicked off stage, Bill put his arm around me with a wicked grin. "Man," he said, "that was *badd!*"

And it was. It was awful, embarrassing, wonderful, hilarious. Now, whenever I'm on the verge of missing an opportunity to make a perfect fool of myself — to forget myself — I imagine Bill behind me, pushing me toward the stage.

That's what Bill brought to his writing, and to his life, to raise it above its own mere badness: a refusal to be silent, meek, over-looked, zero.

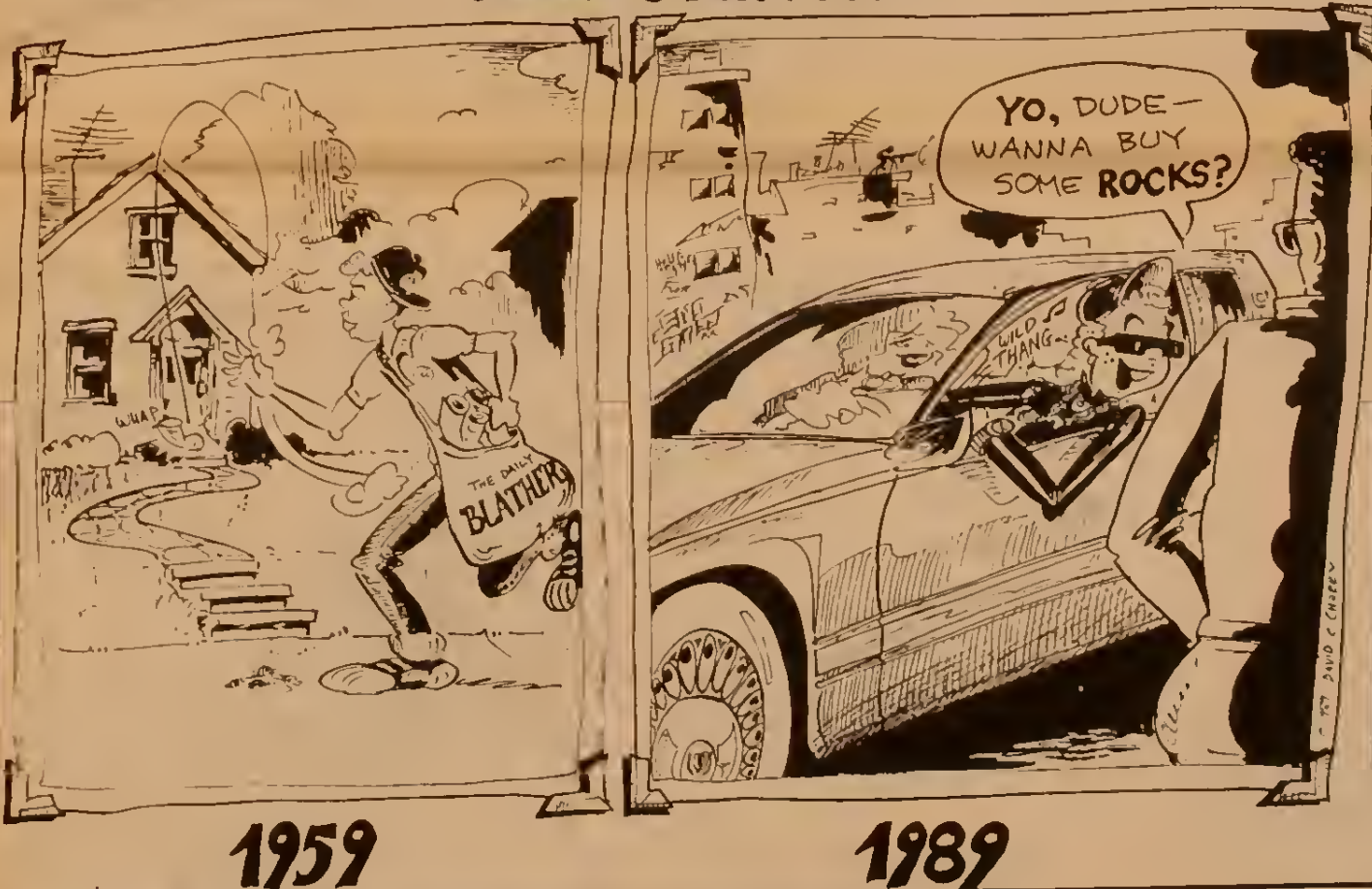
That was the good in Badd.

Frank "Deadbaddbeat"

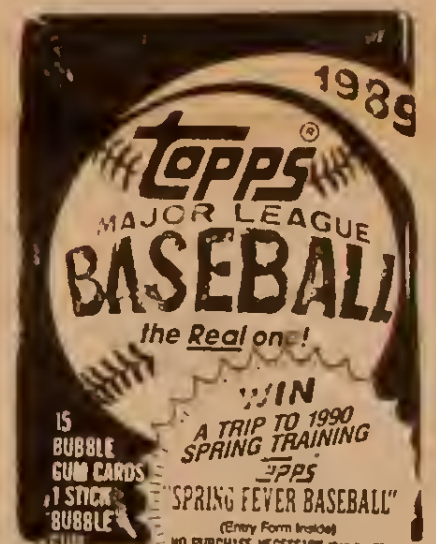
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